



THE

Fisherman

— THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION —

February 3rd—9th, 1983
Volume 18, Number 5

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ABOUT THE COVER:

Small cod are again making their presence felt in our waters and as a result, open boat anglers are enjoying the most consistent winter run of fish in years.

Publisher	Richard Reina
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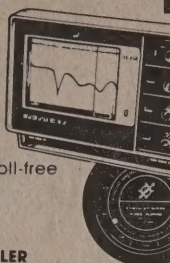
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Pass It On...

LET'S WAKE UP THE POLITICIANS

On Tuesday, February 15, Mr. Stephen Sloan will be the guest speaker of the Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County. Mr. Sloan, a world-renowned saltwater sport fisherman who holds 30 world records, has been placing ads in many fishing publications requesting \$1.00 from the public to establish December 7th as a National Salt Water Sport Fishing Day. Additionally, Mr. Sloan has organized the Citizens Committee for Urban Fishing and the \$1.00 contribution will be used to get the message across to our legislators and politicians that the saltwater fisherman will no longer tolerate the depletion of our fishing stocks by foreign fleets. Mr. Sloan will explain his program to provide political clout for the saltwater fisherman in our local area and also in Washington.

Additionally, a limited number of advance tickets at a discounted price will be sold for the Rockland Community World Fishing and Outdoor Exposition which will be held at the Rockland Community College during March 2 to March 6.

The public is invited to attend this meeting which will begin at 8PM on Tuesday, February 15, at the American Legion Post #170 at 33 West Passaic Street, Rochelle Park, New Jersey. Free refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the meeting.

Anyone desiring additional information on this important meeting or the Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County can call President John Toth at (201) 569-3218.

SAFE BOATING DISPLAY AT SOUTH SHORE MALL

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 1-3 of Islip has scheduled a Safe Boating Display and Information booth at the South Shore Mall Spring Boat Show.

Unlike most sports, boating has something for every member of the family, be it water skiing, fishing, sailing or cruising. The rules of safe boating are very easy to learn, and the Auxiliary would like to give you the necessary knowledge that assures everyone on the water a happy and safe boating season.

Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 1-3 of Islip will have auxiliaries available to answer your boating questions at the Spring Boat Show which runs from Saturday, February 5th through Sunday, February 13th. The Booth will be manned from 5PM until 9:30PM weeknights and all day Saturday and Sunday. Information will be available for their Spring

Education classes for power and sail boaters. Flyers will also be available on required lighting, first aid, required equipment, and the new look of the buoys in the coming years.

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is the civilian component of the Coast Guard and is an all volunteer group of pleasure boaters dedicated to promoting safe boating. Last year, approx. 57,800 boaters were either saved or assisted. The Auxiliary performed over 35,000 of these assist missions. Safety through education is the primary goal of the Auxiliary, and Flotilla 1-3 is always open to new members.

The Auxiliary also sponsors courtesy examinations of pleasure boats to seek compliance with state and federal requirements. Stop by the booth at the Mall and ask for a CME flyer. Then, after your vessel is outfitted this spring, you will have the list of requirements and can assure yourself that you have all the necessary equipment.

Everyone is invited to meet the Auxiliarists during the Boat Show. While you are there, ask for the Spring Education Calendar and sign up for a boating course. Safety is no accident. Make this boating season your best ever with an Auxiliary education course, a courtesy examination and membership in the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

For additional information, contact Pete Natale at 582-4574.

SAIL & POWER BOATING COURSE

Jones Beach Power Squadron, a non-profit boating organization, will offer a free Sail and Power Boating Course. This course is open to the public. Registration will take place at 7:30 PM on Monday, February 7th at the Seaford Junior High School Cafeteria, Washington Avenue, Seaford, Long Island New York.

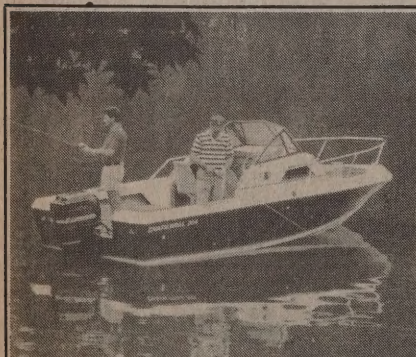
You do not have to own a boat to take this 12-week course. Subjects taught are boat handling, seamanship and Common Emergency Procedures, aids to navigation, rules of the road, compass and chart use, running lights and equipment, and trailering.

BROOKLYN POWER SQUADRON SMALL BOAT HANDLING COURSE

The Brooklyn Power Squadron will get an early start on the 1983 boating season by conducting registration for a course in small boat handling on Thursday, February 3, at 7 PM at St. Francis College, 180 Remsen Street, just a half block from the Brooklyn Borough Hall.

Skippers and would-be skippers, both men and women, over the age of 16 are invited to attend the 12-week course. Ownership of a boat is not required.

Classes will be held at St. Francis on Thursdays at 7:30 PM, starting on February 10. The classes cover the techniques of safe handling of outboard and inboard craft, anchoring, tying basic knots, reading charts and



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plotting course, use of a mariner's compass, and safety afloat.

Aids to navigation, such as buoys and radio beacons, are explained in illustrated lectures. The efficient use of power boats for maximum gas mileage will be described. And the new rules of the road for safe operation also will be taught to students.

The Brooklyn Power Squadron, a unit of the United States Power Squadrons, conducts the classes to teach sail and power boaters the skills they must possess for safety on the water. Additional information can be obtained by calling 768-4714.

SURF AND SEA ANGLERS HOLDING OPEN HOUSE

The Surf & Sea Anglers, a Shirley based fishing club will hold an Open Meeting on Thursday, February 10th at 8 PM in Reese's 1900, 70 North Ocean Avenue, Patchogue.

Highlighting this meeting: a special closed circuit television presentation of the 1981 Surf & Sea Anglers shark tournament. This television tape features fantastic footage of actual shark fishing as well as the captain's meeting and dockside activities. This tape projects the excitement and flavor of a local fishing event and is sure to provide a temporary cure for the February Cabin Fever which afflicts all fishermen this time of year.

The Surf & Sea Anglers is presently accepting new members interested in surf, bay and offshore fishing.

For further information call: Bernie Souchard at 654-1906; Danny Norbut at 567-5096 or Mrs. Lorry Mangan at 928-1347.

BOATING SKILL AND SEAMANSHIP COURSE

14-week lesson course in Boating Skills and Seamanship will be given by Flotilla 11-8 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Registration and classes begin Monday evening, 8PM, February 14, 1983 in Sheepshead Bay, at Knights of Baron DeKalb, 3000 Emmons Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y.

The course will be presented by experienced USCG Auxiliary instructors using the Auxiliary's highly acclaimed text book and related instructional materials. A wide area of subjects will be covered, including: Boating Language; Rules of the Road, Legal Requirements; Use of Charts & piloting; Marine Engines, Weather, Safety; Aids to Navigation; Boat Handling; Knots; Sailing and more. Additionally, the classes provide an excellent forum for in-depth questions and answers.

The lessons are designed for beginning and intermediate levels and family participation is encouraged. The course is offered free, with a nominal fee for the text and materials of \$27.50. Upon successful completion of the course, registrants will receive a handsome Certificate from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. For further information call Flotilla 11-8 at (212) 741-0405; ask for Boating

Skills Seamanship Course Information and leave your name and telephone number and message.

ATLANTIS ANGLERS SEEKING NEW MEMBERS

The Atlantis Anglers of Freeport have openings for avid fishing persons. Individual or family memberships available.

If you are interested in joining a good club for fishing and fun, with monthly derbies, interclub tournaments, fishing trips, with trophies, prizes, and much more.

Our next regular meeting will be held on February 22, 1983, at The Salty Bay Yacht Club at 180 Westside Avenue, Freeport, New York at 8PM SHARP!

For further information please contact Joe Santangelo at (516) 796-2829 or Allan Zaretsky at (516) 796-3982 after 7PM.

STRIPER SURF CLUB'S ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

The Striper Surf Club Inc. is holding its Annual Open House, February 11, 1983, 8:30 PM at the Plattdeutsche Park Restaurant on Hempstead Turnpike in Franklin Square.

This function will be of interest to the novice as well as the advanced surf fisherman.

We have an excellent speaker who will give a talk on surf fishing and techniques, which will be followed by a question-and-answer period. A film will be shown and demonstrations in rod building, reels, and reel repair and plug display. Beer will be served; no one under 19 will be admitted. Reservations are a must. Numbers to call are: Ira Friedman, (212) 520-0003

and Mike Kaland, (516) 868-7402; weekdays from 7-10PM and weekends 6-10PM. There is no charge for this event and people are urged to call as early as possible, the hall will hold only 125 people.

At this time, we are also opening our roll books for membership. Anyone who is seriously interested in surf fishing, whether he be novice or experienced, is welcome to apply. We are a serious surf fishing club with the prime intention of catching striped bass 15 pounds and over.

JACK YEE TO VISIT GATEWAY STRIPERS

On Thursday, February 10, 1983, noted Montauk surf fisherman Jack Yee will be present at an open house meeting of the Gateway Striper Club at Building T125, Fort Tilden, New York. Jack will discuss the various aspects of fishing the Montauk surf with a special emphasis on wet-suiting. All those interested are invited to attend.

The club also has a limited number of openings available for new members. Anyone interested in becoming part of a truly unique club is invited to attend this meeting. For further information and directions, call John Marsillo at (212) 854-6559.

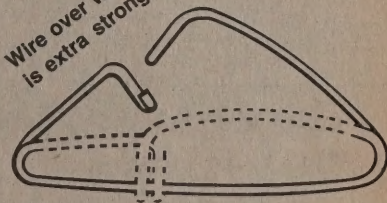


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TACKLE DOCTOR:

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Q. I have been having a problem with my surf spinning reels for over 10 years. I have tried to modify them in different ways to make them perform smoothly and with no chatter or jerkiness and although I have had some success with some of the modifications, the drags do not stay trouble free and free turning.

I do not have the same problems with my freshwater reels, which, by the way, are made by the same manufacturer. The surf spinners went back to the factory on two occasions and while they did perform as new when I first got them back, they began to lose the smoothness quickly. In fact, one reel became worse than before I sent it in for service after only one night of jetty fishing.

I have talked to other fishermen; some have had troubles, others have not. Is there anything you can recommend to get my spinners working with no drag chatter?

Bob Wiley.

A. Bob, we've been in the same seat

as you may times over the years and know how exasperating it can be to keep a surf reel performing perfectly despite the effects of salt corrosion and build-up of moisture. The Penn 704 that has served you so well for many years is an excellent reel and yet under some surf conditions, it is possible for the drag to become jerky.

This usually occurs when the asbestos compound washers get some moisture on them. As they sit still with no drag motion, the washers can become stuck to the metal washers that lie interspaced between them. If they get stuck too many times, the surface of the asbestos gets torn, or sometimes the asbestos actually adheres directly to the metal washers and then causes high irregular spots on the washers that cause a bumpy drag the next time the washers do turn on the run of a fish.

There are a few things you can do to help the problem. First is clean the washers regularly. If it had been a

salty spray night, very damp or raining, our staffers will pull the drags apart, let them dry and then rub the metal washers against a piece of paper to polish and clean them up to remove any tiny high spots. Reassemble the drag and you are ready again for a big bass.

Be sure to slack off the drag knob in-between fishing trips and allow the reel to air out on a dry place, not buried in the back of your beach buggy or the damp corner of a garage or basement, which will prevent the moisture from leaving the drag parts.

You can add a Teflon washer, and Penn does offer a set of Teflon washers for these reels. Our experience has been to use only one Teflon washer rather than a series of three. The single Teflon tends to smooth out the rough spots in a drag and makes it more forgiving. Too many Teflon washers make the drag so slick you can't get a substantial drag setting even with the adjustment knob



A smooth operating drag is vital to most fishing situations and especially so in the surf.



cranked all the way down tight.

I know several surf fishermen who swear by the Penn's rugged durability, who have cut washers from a sheet of leather obtained from a shoe-maker. They use the larger fingernail (toe nail) clippers to fabricate suitable washers to replace the asbestos. Unlike the asbestos, the leather washers can be oiled to keep slipper for a long time with no adverse effects from water.

Over the last ten years most manufacturers of conventional reels have switched to some form of asbestos compound for their reels because the material is so durable and smooth. Penn has been elected to use asbestos on their heavy duty spinners to subdue big fish with ease. But, the drag surfaces must be kept clean and dry to be at their peak performance.

Q. Last year I purchased a Daiwa conventional reel, model 50H, to be used for diamond jigging. I like the quality of the reel, the size and best of all the retrieve ratio; but the drag is giving me fits of temper. When the reel was fresh out of the box, it handled beautifully and gave me no trouble. After a half season, the drag is now so bad I can't pull line off the reel without first yanking it hard with my hands. Once the drag is free, it works okay, but again, if left for a few minutes in-between fish the drag gets stuck. Sometimes when a fish is on, the line pulls off the reel in spurts or jerks instead of in a smooth motion.

I paid a lot of money for the reel; what can I do? **Larry Heisler.**

A. Your problem is very similar to the jerky drag experienced by Bob the surf fisherman. I would bet money that two things have happened, maybe three. The drag tension was probably left at maximum in-between fishing trips which has caused the drag washers to become bonded to one another. Also, the drag washers, or drag parts have become exposed to moisture on one of your fishing trips. Although you didn't mention it, if you used a spray oil on the reel in generous amounts, oil may have seeped into the drag mechanism, too. Any of these three things could cause your problem.

The solution is simple. Replace the drag washers and clean the surfaces of the metal washers. If the metal washers are badly burred, scored or sticky with lumps of bonded drag material, use a fine emory or wet/dry sanding paper to polish the washers. You can get new washers from many area tackle shops or write directly to the Daiwa Service Center in Maryland as listed in the instruction booklet.

If you aren't handy with a small screwdriver or don't want to chase tiny springs around the basement floor, take the reel to a repair station tackle shop near you. They should be able to fix it quickly.

It is very important to back off the drag after each trip and during the time period that the rod and reel is stored away in-between fishing trips.



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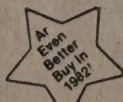
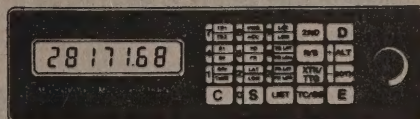
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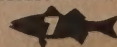


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SELECTING THE RIGHT BOAT TRAILER

by Gary Diamond

After several years of searching, you've finally found the ultimate fishing machine. This 18 foot aluminum beauty, powered by a hefty outboard would normally cost a fortune, but you were lucky and saved a bundle by buying a package deal. Yep, you've got a winner that will go anywhere the fish are and do it economically. All you need now is a trailer.

Capacity: Buying a boat trailer is not as easy as one might expect. There are more things to look for than you can imagine and every item is extremely important—much more than you're sometimes led to believe. First, consider the load the trailer must carry. Often, the person that buys the boat, carefully calculates the boat and motor weight, then buys a trailer rated for that capacity. If your boat and motor combined weighs 1,000 pounds, a 1,000 pound capacity trailer is far too light. Anything placed in the boat must be taken into consideration and added to the weight of the total package. Fuel tanks, gasoline, batteries, anchor, cooler chest, ice, food, drinks, tools, first aid kit and fishing tackle are all small items, but their combined weight is substantial. A good rule of thumb is to total the weight of the boat and motor, then add one-third. This increase of

approximately 33 percent is usually sufficient to allow for the additional weight of any equipment you'll be transporting.

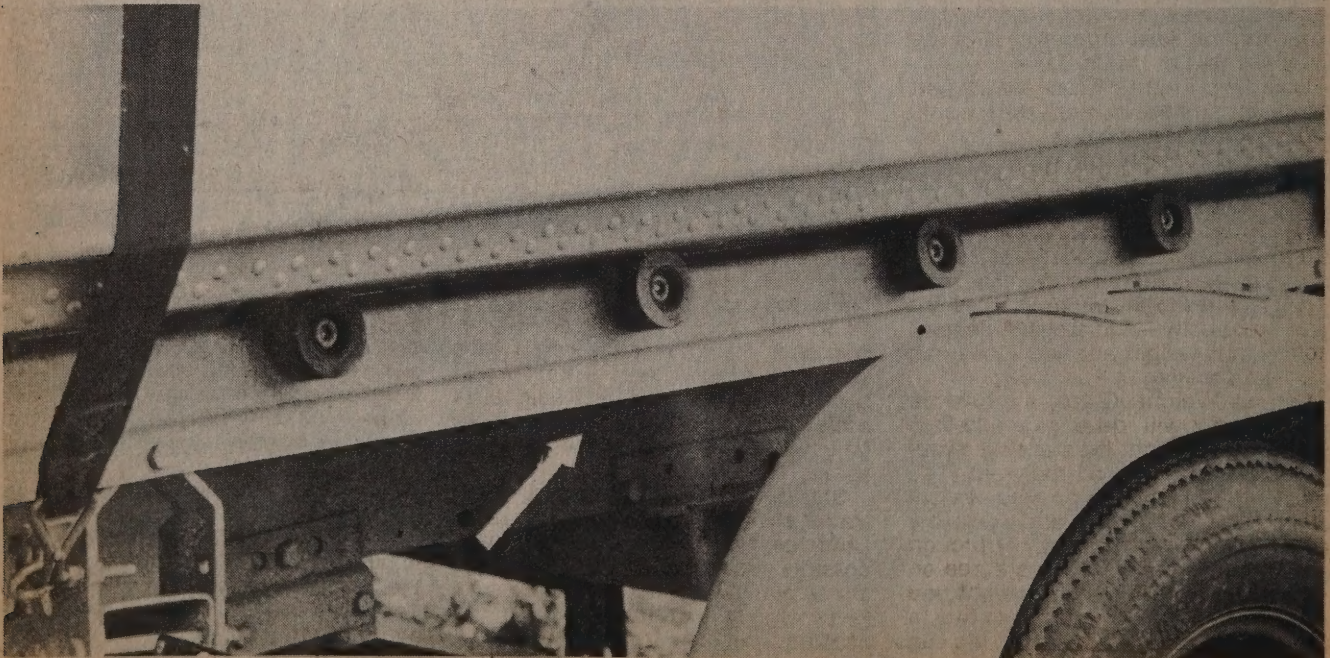
Trailer Construction: Quite often, the construction and design of your boat trailer makes the difference in whether you're one of the guys sitting on the shoulder of the road, or your trip is a leisurely drive. Over the years I've seen everything from sheared tilt pins to broken axles disable a trailered boat. There is no such thing as too heavy when it comes to the framing, axles or supports. Most problems arise when these are too light to handle the load.

Wheel Bearings: All manufacturers agree, Bearing Buddies are worth their weight in gold and offer the best protection against bearing failure. There's a sick feeling that comes over you when you see a wobbling wheel and a smoking axle. If this happens on a Sunday afternoon, while in heavy traffic, you're in real trouble. I've seen some boat owners spend the entire night on the side of the road, guarding their rig against possible vandals, simply because they didn't spend the extra \$20 for bearing protection.

Your trailer tires are probably not going to wear out from road use. More often than not, they will dry-rot

long before the tread is worn enough to be considered dangerous. Most dry-rotting can be avoided by simply removing the wheels during the winter and storing them indoors. Be sure they are properly inflated before re-installing and they'll last years longer. Be sure to check the tire pressure when the tires are cold—checking them hot gives you a false reading. Your spare for the trailer is just as important as the one on your car: you shouldn't drive without one. The tire size should be as large as possible in all cases so they'll have the least amount of friction on the road. Many trailers have the option of two sizes for the same trailer for just a few dollars more. The small difference in price is insignificant when it comes to the increased margin of safety. On some of the larger trailers, you can match the size of your trailer tires to those of your car, which allows you to carry a single spare.

Rust Resistance: Depending on the size of the trailer, there's a \$50 to \$150 difference in the price of a galvanized model as compared to painted. I've seen a 20-year-old, hot dipped galvanized trailer that looks like new, while its five-year-old counterpart is pitted with rust. A rusty trailer is not only an eyesore, but can be extremely dangerous. If



Roller bunks, with multiple small rollers make loading and unloading much easier.

the rust starts inside the tongue, it can decrease the strength and possibly result in breakage while under way. At this point, the boat is no longer connected to the towing vehicle, which has to be an absolute nightmare. Not only have you managed to destroy your entire rig, but this situation could result in damaging other vehicles and cause serious injury. The \$50 to \$150 spent for the galvanized model is money well spent.

Suspension: The suspension system on your boat trailer is just as crucial for determining stability as the suspension on your car. Springs must be rigid enough to support the load, yet soft enough to absorb the abuse of poor road conditions. A spring that's too stiff will cause the boat to take more punishment than having no springs at all. Springs that are too soft will cause whipping when the rig hits a minor dip in the road at higher speeds. If you happen to be looking in the rear view mirror when this occurs, it will raise the hair on the back of your neck. Shocks are an absolute necessity and should be considered a integral part of the suspension system. Not only do they aid in stability, but they save a lot of wear and tear on your boat. Check them periodically for leakage and replace them when necessary.

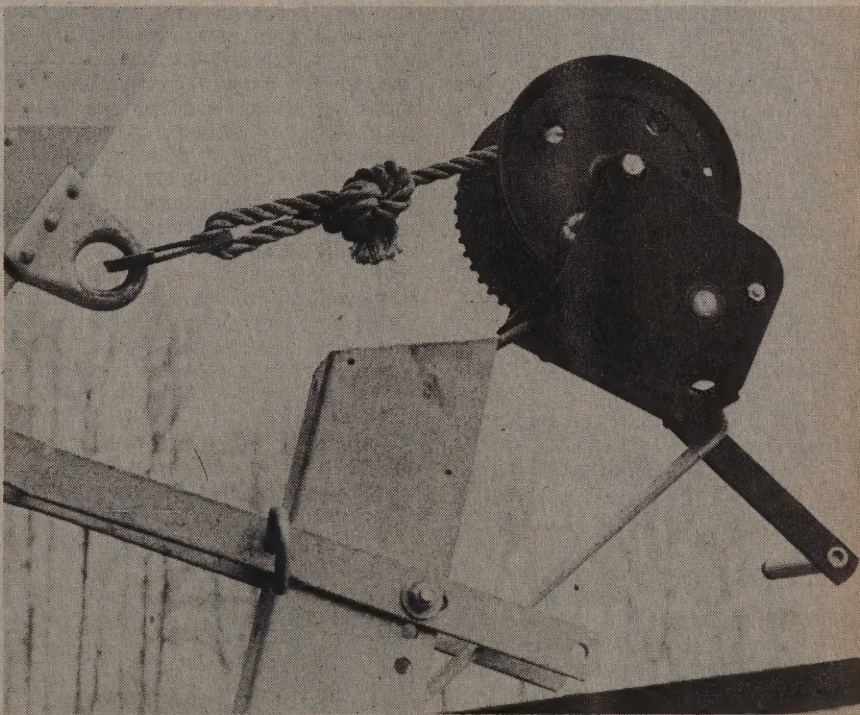
Hull Support: Supporting the boat on the trailer depends most on the design and construction materials used in manufacturing the boat. Most glass boats can be placed on self-centering rollers with little or no stress on the hull, but most manufacturers of aluminum boats recommend bunk supports to prevent metal fatigue. These bunks come in two designs: one covered with carpeting which gives maximum support, while the other consists of a series of small rollers. Needless to say, the roller bunks make loading and unloading a lot easier. Keel rollers should be spaced close enough together to prevent the keel from scraping the center beam of the trailer.

Loading: There's a vast assortment of winches on the market—all capable of cranking your boat on the trailer. The rated capacity and gear ratio are the most important factors to consider when making your selection. The lower gear ratio models will ease the strain on your arms when loading at some of the steeper ramps. The same rules applies to the winch as does the trailer capacity—add about 30 percent to the total weight and you'll have no trouble cranking in your boat.

Tongue Weight: Often, the balance of your rig will determine whether you'll have to fight the steering wheel to keep everything on the road. Too much or not enough tongue weight can cause whipping and possibly make you lose control. Although manufacturers don't always agree on exactly how much tongue weight you should carry, the range is from five to ten percent of the total load. This can easily be determined by stopping at



Wheel bearing protection is an absolute must on all trailers, especially when used in saltwater.



Single speed winches are fine for light boats, but a two-speed model is easier on the arms.

one of the local truck stops and having your rig weighed. Once this is obtained, place the tongue on a bath scale and adjust the boat forward or back until the desired weight is achieved. Now all that's needed is to adjust the winch stand until it rests against the bow.

Storage: If at all possible, your trailer should be stored in a garage. Unfortunately, this is not always possible, and the boat will have to be stored outside in the weather. Be sure to remove the drain plug from the boat and position the bow uphill so rain or snow does not accumulate.

Water weighs nearly eight pounds per gallon and an 18 foot boat will hold close to 1000 gallons—that works out to 8000 additional pounds of weight, which can crush your hull, blow-out the tires and bend the frame. Prior to storage, lubricate all moving parts to prevent rust and you'll find your trailer will be ready to go when you are.

If you follow these basic steps to buying a trailer, you'll end up with the right trailer for your rig. Take short cuts and try to save a few bucks and it could spell disaster for you and your boat.

IMPROVING A GOOD THING

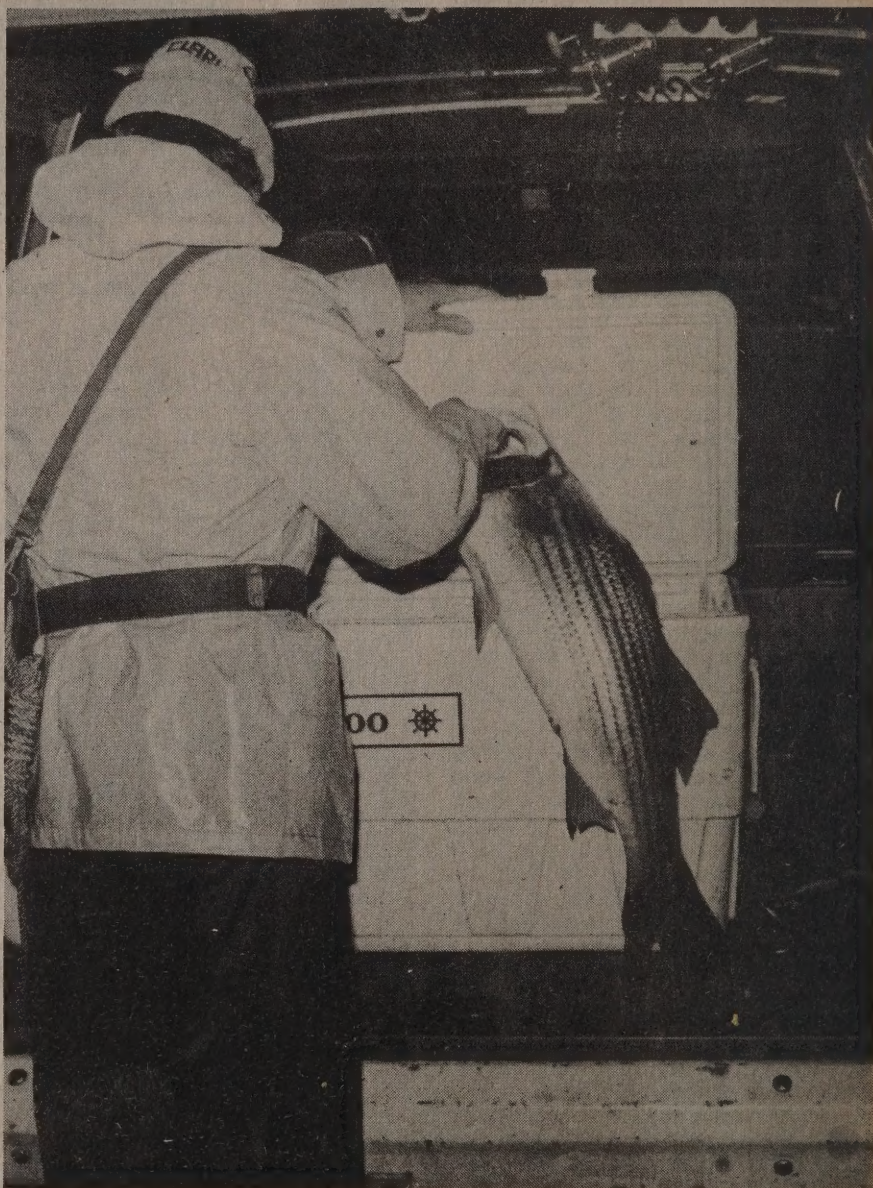
by John Fritz

The most successful surfmen have learned that minor modifications to an already good fish catcher can make for some deadly results.

Manufacturers of sporting equipment spend countless hours and dollars on research and field testing of their products before presenting them to the public. Even such minor items as fishing lures are given extensive testing. In most instances these products, taken directly from the shelf, will perform at the expected standards. Unfortunately, deviations in these mass-produced items, or variations on the local fishing scene will cause the lure to perform below par. Experienced anglers know that innovation and attention to detail are two prime components for successful surf fishing. An angler willing to experiment will often enjoy more success than one who methodically uses the standard lure and technique even though results are poor.

Mass produced lures will often measure up to the glowing descriptions printed on the packaging, but there are times when a little alteration will increase the production of the best lures. There are two basic methods used to change the presentation of a standard lure. The first does not alter the structure of the lure itself, but rather deals with fishing technique or variations in the hardware attached to the lure. In breaking this first method down further, let me describe a few possibilities involving various techniques when using standard lures in the generally accepted manner.

A fisherman slinging tin will normally retrieve the lure at a fairly rapid pace, which is the accepted practice on most occasions, but there are times when a strike will be forthcoming only when the lure is ever so slowly dragged along the bottom. On other occasions, it should be given a fast darting motion towards the surface and then allowed to flutter to the bottom. Then there are times when only a very fast retrieve, skimming the tin along the surface, will ensure a reaction from a lurking game fish. There are relatively few variations of technique possible with tin. On the other hand, the vast array of plugs presents countless opportunities to experiment with various retrieves. Swimming plugs can be made to dart towards the bottom or float motionless on the surface with just a touch of action imparted by a twitch of the rod tip. The possible variations are too numerous to describe here and they can be explored at any time when the fishing



Slightly altering a popular swimming plug resulted in this husky striper being added to the cooler.

is slow. Almost everyone is familiar with the addition of a teaser ahead of a standard lure whether it be a tin or plug. In these times of sand eel abundance smart surfmen include several teasers, of various sizes and colors already attached to leaders, in their plug bag. Whether they be rubber imitation or feathers, this universally accepted alteration has put many sizable game fish on the beach which would not have been caught otherwise.

Very often the hardware or lack of same preceding the lure will have a direct bearing on its potency. A small snap which hinders the free movement of a tin will detract from its action just as an extremely large snap on a small swimming plug will change the action, sometimes for the better, as we discovered on a past trip to Nantucket. At other times, fish will strike a lure only when it is tied directly to the line; this is common when using four or five inch Rebel

type swimming plugs or bucktails. The addition or elimination of a swivel will frequently make the difference between fish on the stringer or another fruitless trip.

Most anglers, when seeking bluefish, will automatically snap on a wire leader in the belief that a loss of lures and fish will occur should wire not be used. On occasion, this wire will turn off the fish, especially if they are not feeding in their classic frenzy. Since bluefish tend to strike a lure from the rear the elimination of a wire leader will not result in that great a loss of lures. Similarly, when using extremely light plugs a heavy line could detract from its action causing the lure to be ignored.

The thoughts imparted in these opening paragraphs are not the prime intent of this article, but are only given to make the reader aware of what is possible before attempting to alter the lure itself which is the second method used to improve on the packaged item.

In dealing with metal lures first, only because there is less variety when compared to the countless number of plugs in existence, the most likely place to add flair to a tin would be to spruce up the tail hook. To begin with, I rarely use a tin equipped with a treble, for they usually attract only unwanted real estate. A single feathered or bucktail hook will impart more action than a bulky treble, but there are times when those finicky game fish are turned off by the appearance of any hair or feathers, preferring instead a single bare hook. Anyone experiencing the fabulous south shore run this past fall is aware that the addition of a tubed hook on an ordinary tin was dynamite. Large tubes or small, whether they were white, green or red, all produced striped bass or monster blues at one time or another. Jelly worms, plastic shrimp or pork rind are also added to the tail hook in an effort to produce a better lure. Several Montauk regulars prefer to paint their tins either white or yellow with tail hooks of similar colored feathers. This is useful though when fishing in a strong on-shore wind at night when plugs are difficult to cast or work in a heavy surf, but these surfmen will use them at any time rather than those with a shiny finish. Some anglers will bend the nose of a J-8 or similar tin up slightly in an effort to have it ride more towards the surface, although this can be a mistake if done improperly, for even if the lure does not snap, the action can be ruined completely.

Many veteran surfmen have a few favorite plugs with which they have taken many fish and which are used sparingly for fear of being lost. Most often these beat-up lures bear little resemblance to the shiny, freshly painted object it was when first removed from its packaging. These plugs are left untouched lest any renovation diminish its fish-catching qualities. However, not all beat-up

plugs are such prized items and after a season of hard use, a winter refurbishing is sorely needed. It is also a time to take stock as to which colors are most productive and if it's found that negligible results are achieved with certain colors, change it to one that is more readily acceptable. Before painting is started, all rusted and bent hooks should be discarded and the proper replacements assembled. In some instances, the hooks supplied by the manufacturer are not equal to the abuse saltwater fishermen give them. Therefore, the substitute should be the best available. For instance: the hooks on five inch Rebels, RedFins and Hellcats are often replaced with 4X strong, size 2 Eagle Claw trebles. These same hooks, only in a size 4 or 6, are preferred on the smaller RedFins and Rebels. Some anglers involved with catching weakfish, small blues or school bass might question the need of such a change, but one trophy bass successfully landed on a hook which fails to open under the tremendous pressure exerted by a cow bass in its efforts to gain freedom will be a lesson learned with a happy ending. Even the hooks on some of the larger plugs, like the Gibbs darter are cut away and replaced for in certain areas of our coast, most notably under the Light at Montauk, an excessive amount of force is brought to bear in an effort to control the movements of a running fish. One theory passed on by the old time Montauk regulars, which is still effective today wherever it is used, is to replace the rear treble hook on darters and bottle plugs with a single 5/0 Siwash decked out with an ample dressing of bucktail or feather.

Metal lipped swimming plugs, such as the Atom 40 or the Junior Atom can be doctored to produce a different swimming motion as it is drawn across the water. Bending the eye of the plug up will force the plug to travel at a deeper depth. Some experienced plug casters also bend the side edges of the metal lip upward at a right angle to increase the bite of the lip. This bend should form a crease, no greater than 1/8 inch, from each side edge leaving the front edge in its original state. The numbers of cow bass taken on Spin Atoms fitted with an eel skin are hard to believe in these times of sparse bass populations but few present day surfmen, myself included, bother to try one of the deadliest lures in a surf caster's arsenal.

Probably the most widely used model of swimming plugs is the Rebel type surface swimmer with the five inch versions of Rebels, RedFins and Hellcats used more frequently than the larger seven inch plugs. A major drawback of these proven plugs is their relatively light weight which seriously hinders casting distance. These plugs are hollow bodied, hard plastic which presents the innovative angler the opportunity to increase

(Continued on page 28.)

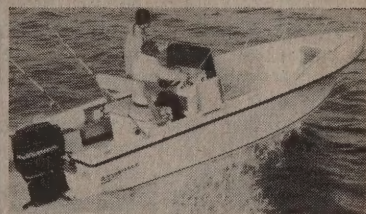
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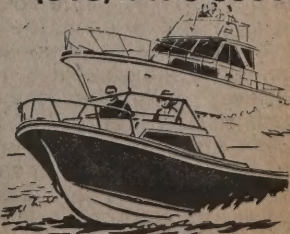
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THE MUNDUS KNOT: 100% Knot Strength

by Stu Miller

It looks as if the "Monster Man" has really come up with a winner. Here's how to tie it, then we'll let you decide.

There the famous man sat, in one of our "deluxe" chairs at our Sag Harbor office...the familiar Safari hat pushed back on his head, the beat-up boots and the usual dark pants and wool plaid shirt—but the winter jacket in fluorescent yellow was a new one on me, until I read the black logo emblazoned across the back—DU PONT STREN. The DuPont Company furnishes these jackets to its field

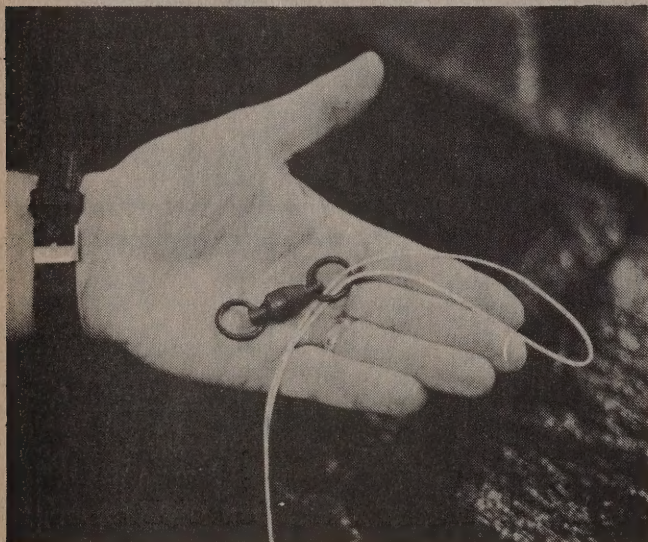
testers, and Frank has been one for the last several years.

Frank tilted his head back, closed his eyes and said simply, "I've got a new knot." "What do you call it, Frank?" LIF Editor Fred Golofaro and I asked. Frank replied, "Ain't got a name...call it anything you want to call it, but I think your readers might like to learn it."

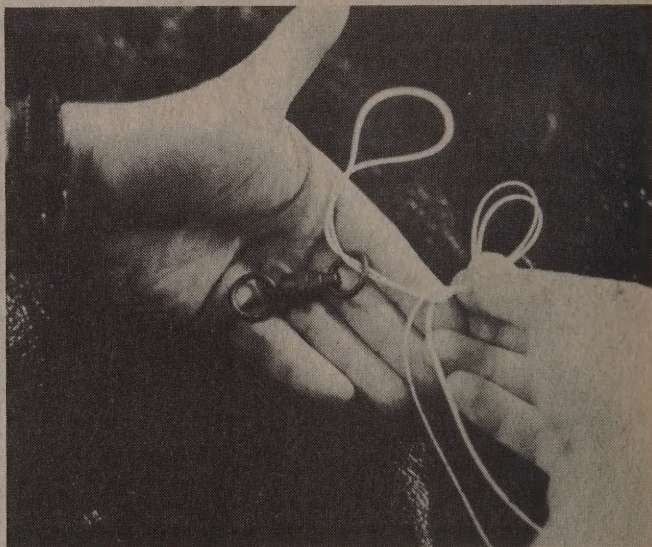
"I developed this knot by accident,

while waiting for a shark to come along, just playing with some line and a swivel in the Summer of '81. It's a knot that won't slip and keeps 100% knot strength (the line doesn't become weakened at the knot, as is common with most other knots, due to one part of the line being cut by another part of the line at the knot as pulling pressure is put on it)."

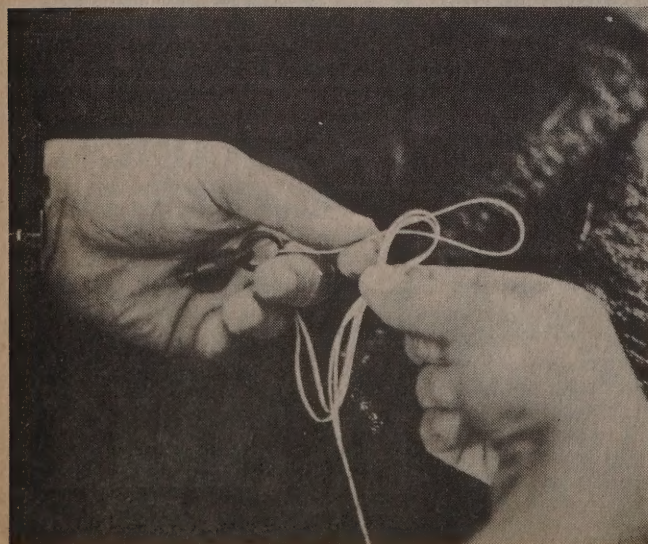
Special features of this knot in-



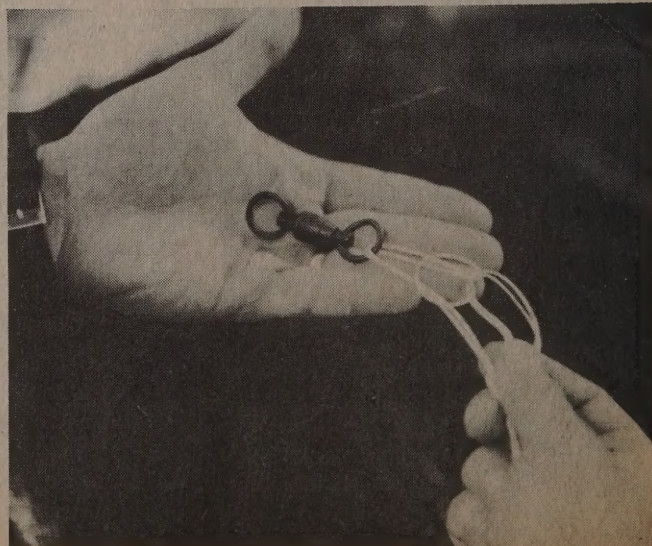
STEP ONE



STEP TWO



STEP THREE



STEP FOUR

clude:

1. It is a "positive" knot. That is, at a specific stage in the tying, when you can see a "square" knot appear, you know you've got it right.

2. The knot gives you two (2) loops going through the swivel, in case of chafing or a small fish nipping one of the loops.

3. The knot will not pull down against the swivel.

4. You can tie this knot with any test mono or dacron on any size swivel.

5. With some practice, you can make the knot without the swivel.

Captain Mundus has tested the knot's strength many times, using several exacting methods and is emphatic that the line **never** breaks at the knot. One of his favorite tests is to tie the knot to the handle of a big bucket, using, as an example, 40 lb. test mono. Hang the bucket off the ground, via the line, from a pipe, gin pole, tree trunk, elephant's tusk, or whatever. Then add 35 lbs. of pre-weighed rocks or bricks into the bucket, then a chunk at a time till she pops. See if you can duplicate the

skipper's "never breaks at the knot" findings.

"This was the knot I used when we caught the 1080 pound record mako," said Frank.

Following are the steps for constructing the Mundus Knot. Keep in mind that if you can see what looks like a square knot develop, you're on the right track.

Step One: Double 1 foot of line and poke it through the swivel being held in the left hand. Let swivel nestle in the fold of palm of left hand and bring about 4 inches of loop through one eye of the swivel.

Step Two: Make a 3 twist loop in the doubled line that runs from the swivel to your right hand. (You can help with your left hand, while it still holds the swivel and end of looped line.)

Step Three: Using your left thumb and forefinger, poke the end of the doubled line through the 3 twist loop and then bring it back. Next bring the swivel through the doubled end loop. During this step, you should be holding the line, loops and twists firmly with your right hand so that it

all stays in one place.

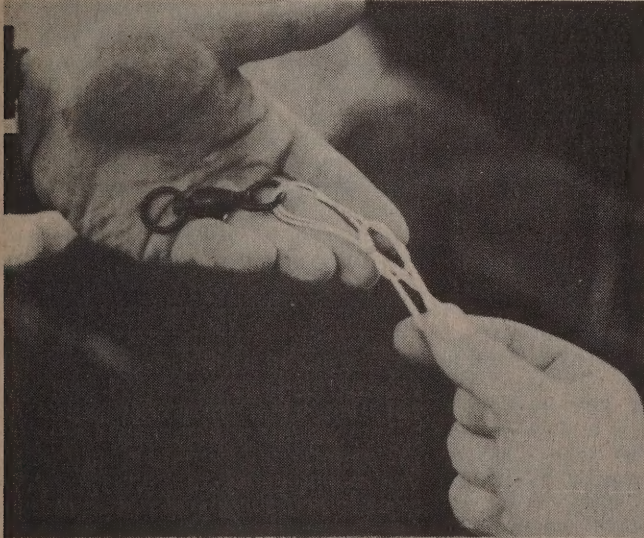
Step Four: As the swivel is brought through the doubled end of the line, a small crescent shaped "loop" of line will appear just above the swivel. Flip this loop **away** from the swivel with your left index finger. (You are still holding things securely in your right hand.)

Step Five: You should now be able to see what appears to be a "square knot" as you ease your fingers back slowly. If you see the "square knot," you've got everything right so far. Conversely, if you don't, start again. Like all knots, it takes practice.

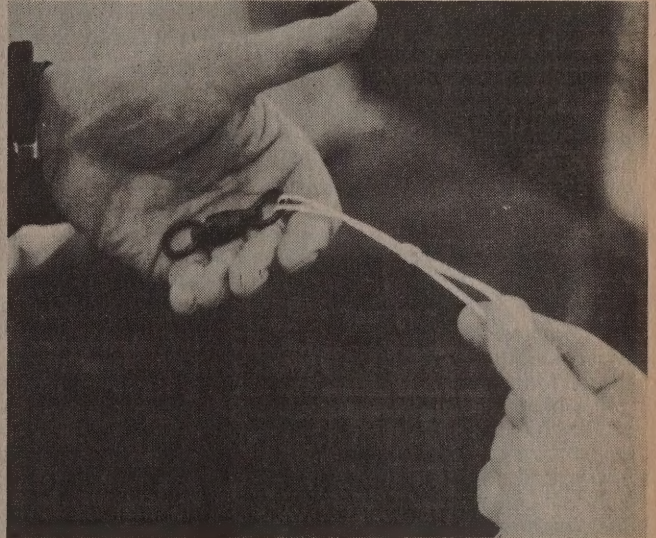
Step Six: Pull the "square knot" section tight.

Step Seven: Release everything you've been holding secure in your right hand and now pull everything tight, with the swivel in your left hand and the doubled line in your right.

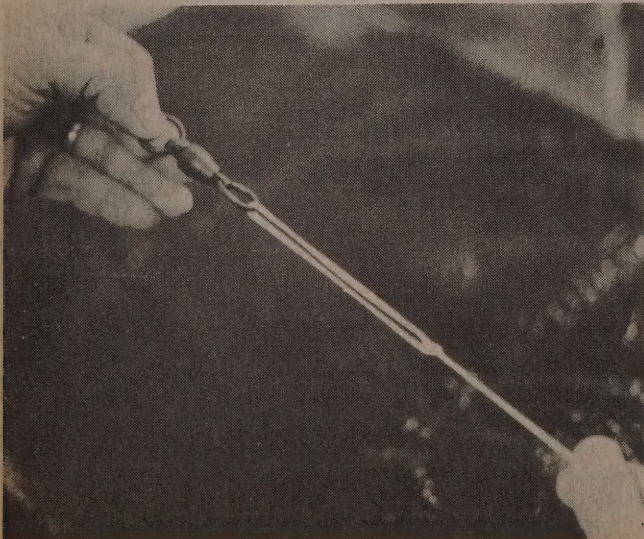
Step Eight: The distance from the swivel to the twisted loop (see Step Two) determines the length of the final twin loops that join the swivel with the knot itself. Trim off the standing end of the line at the knot, and it's done.



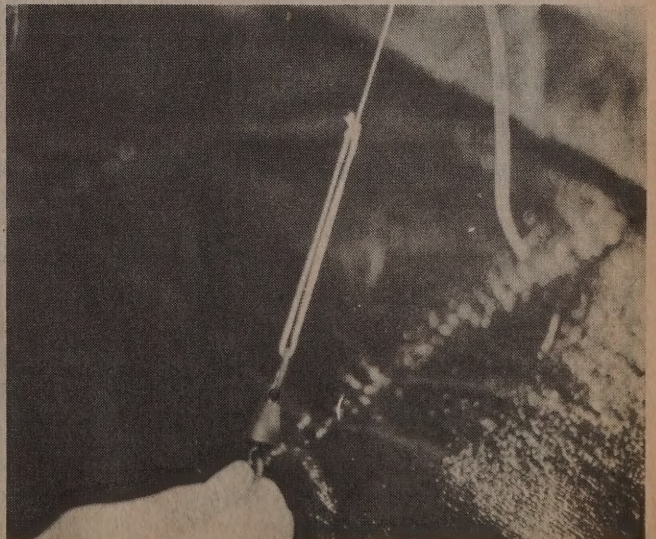
STEP FIVE



STEP SIX



STEP SEVEN



STEP EIGHT

THE COD PROD

by Kevin Bogan

Jersey Coast "Cod" fishing has experienced a revival over the past three to five years with most anglers surprised at both the large quantity and size of these cold water species. The 1981-82 season's a good example where many fishermen had days with six to twelve fish, and pool winners ranging 40 to 55 lbs. Hopefully, this action will continue, and if it does you can bet that a sturdy and well balanced rod will be the ticket to success.

The main features of the cod prod as I call it, is its light weight and unusual power. Power is the key word here for several reasons. As with any bottom fish, the first 15 feet of the fight is the most challenging. You cannot afford to lose headway while fishing over a wreck or you risk the chance of the fish desperately pulling you in, only to lose the whole shooting match. Strong currents combined with deep water make it a necessity for a good cod rod to be able to hold heavy sinkers and diamond jigs without sacrificing backbone.

Blanks: Going back to the idea of power, I have chosen several blanks in the 30 lb. class that suit the bill for these reasons. Most 30 lb. blanks can easily hold 12 to 16 ounces of lead, and often as high as 20 ounces. This much weight is a necessity for holding bottom effectively. Most Jersey Coast party boats that run special cod and pollack excursions to offshore wrecks employ the method of deep jigging. A strong and deliberate jigging (up and down) motion is found to be best, but here, too, we are using 12 to 16 ounce jigs. The 30 lb. sticks have plenty of

backbone to jig comfortably while reserving plenty of hook setting power. Add this to its seven foot length and you have a rod that's a real pro in the casting department as well. For those who prefer a longer rod than seven feet, several surf blanks can be cut back until you find a tip suitable to comfortably hold 14 to 16 ounces.

Blanks: Fenwick 8430; Fisher 3084. Alternates—Dynaflax 3084 and 0705; Shakespeare 0425 (Bottle Blank). Graphite—Fisher 3080; Lamiglas GSB132M.

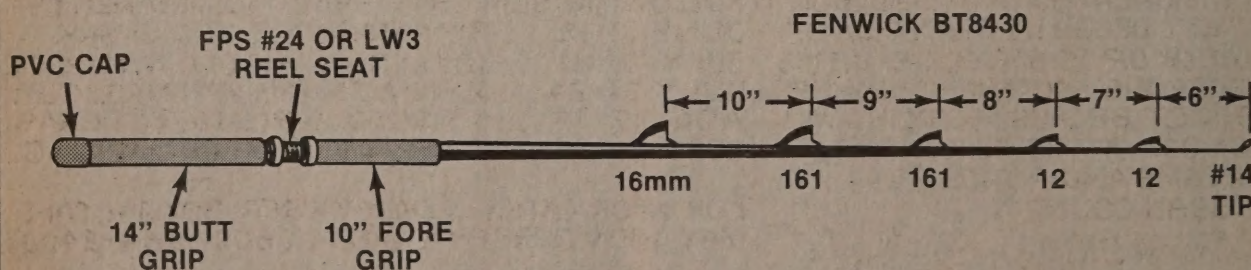
Guides: My preference here is the Fuji trolling guides (BRHG and CRHG series). They have a unique three-legged construction allowing them to wrap around and grip the rod. This makes for an extra sturdy fit under the thread wrappings proving to be ideal for those who punish their equipment. The guide ring itself is aluminum oxide which is a super hard and smooth ceramic material which prevents grooving and line fraying. Their slick surface presents less resistance on the line while retrieving under heavy pressure.

Reel Seat: Fuji has introduced a relatively new line of Graphite composition reel seats. They are warm to the touch, making them ideal on a cold winter's day, are very lightweight, and afford plenty of strength through the use of stainless steel hoods. The FPS #24 is a sure winner with this rod. For the Brass Chrome fans, go for the Varmac LW1X, which has proven to be totally rugged, providing a lifetime of trouble-free service.

Grips: Heavy clothing is almost always worn, with the possible use of rain gear for wind deflection. This calls for a long butt grip for easy placement of the rod under your arm. Fourteen inches is the best length, with a PVC butt cap of two inches finishing off the butt end. A ten inch foregrip made of Mouseskin or Veltex will prove to be a real help. These materials are firmer than conventional PVC and Hypalon grips, which help to prevent "grip fatigue" from spongy feel of the softer style grips. The 10 inch length allows the angler to rest the rod on the boat's rail while checking baits, again conserving energy for fish fighting.

Tips: A gimbal is not recommended for cod fishing because the line always leads straight up and down. The rod, therefore, will always be tucked underneath the arm. However, this rod is capable of being used as a general purpose trolling rod for blues, small tuna, etc., and you may want to use a gimbal. A variety of inexpensive rubber caps can then be slipped over the gimbal to prevent wear and tear.

Forty pound test line is recommended with the use of this rod. Thirty pound test could easily break if a big cow gets on the end of it, and 50 pound is too strong to break out of a wreck without straining yourself. Reels such as the Penn 3/0 or 4/0, Daiwa 50H, 300 or 400H are all suitable. They are all of trolling quality and have plenty of winning power. The next time a cod comes nosing around your line this winter, put this "Cattle Prod" on stun, and zap him out into oblivion.



ALTERNATE: FISHER 8430
Dynaflax 8430

SPACING: SAME ON ALL BLANKS

GUIDES: FUJI BRHG, CRHG #16, 161, 161, 12, 12mm
PERFECTION ACGR #20, 16, 16, 12, 12mm

NORTHEAST NEWS

BY FRED
GUARDINEER

CONNECTICUT ANGLERS JOHN COTTER, JR. AND SON JOHN COTTER III OF HARTFORD BOTH BOATED WORLD RECORD ALBACORE ON SAME DAY, JULY 30, 1982 IN BLOCK ISLAND SOUND. JOHN JR. ... 32 LBS. ON 4 LB. TEST LINE. JOHN III ... 35 LBS. ON 16 LB. LINE (FOR 22 DAYS) BEFORE DEFEATED BY STEPHEN SLOANE'S 49 1/2 LB. FISH ON 16 LB. LINE OFF SHINNECOCK, L.I. AUG. 22.

NEW JERSEY ANGLER JACK W. MOODY OF BEACH HAVEN WON HIS STATE'S RECORD WITH A 74 LB. 15 OZ. ALBACORE ON 80 LB. LINE. THE 48-INCH LONG FISH WAS CAUGHT AT THE SUNSET CANYON.



LONG ISLAND ANGLER JIM ALTSCHUL OF OCEANSIDE WON A WORLD RECORD FOR 4 LB. LINE WITH A 16 1/4 LB. BLUEFISH TAKEN AT THE OFFSHORE CHOLERA BANKS.

NATIONAL PARTY BOAT OWNERS ALLIANCE MEMBERS ARE PRESSING THE NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL TO PROTECT BLUEFISH BY ALLOWING ONLY THE USE OF HOOK, LINE AND CONVENTIONAL GILLNETS, TRAPS, POUNDS ETC. BEFORE THE BLUES ARE DECIMATED BY OTHER GEAR SUCH AS DRIFTNETS.



"THE SANDPIPER" PUBLICATION OF THE GREAT SOUTH BAY AUDUBON SOCIETY URGES ITS READERS NOT TO HOOK UP TO SUFFOLK COUNTY'S DISASTROUS SOUTHWEST SEWER DISTRICT BECAUSE SO DOING WILL SOON DRY UP THE FRESHWATER STREAMS AND PONDS AS IN NASSAU COUNTY.

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JUNE 10-12 ... 3RD ANNUAL \$5,000 SHARK.
JULY 7-11 ... 6TH ANNUAL \$10,000 W. MARLIN.
JULY 21-24 ... MANUFACTURER'S MARLIN ROUNDUP.
AUG. 10-14 ... \$50,000 MARLIN MARDI GRAS.
SEPT. 11-14 ... TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS.

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MAKE THE NE

by Joh

Have you ever been offered an exorbitant amount of money for a lure, or how about two or three lures for one? The object of just such attention and one of the hottest lures on the beach for the last few years on Cape Cod, has been the needlefish. With the tremendous amount of sand eels on the Cape and in our own local waters, this plug is a natural for blues and bass. The needlefish plug is basically a dusk to dawn lure. It should be retrieved slowly so that it leaves a "V" wake on the surface. Slight movements of the rod to the right and left while retrieving will add to its effectiveness, as the lure itself does not have any built-in action. Locally, the lure is best suited for the quiet waters of Long Island Sound.

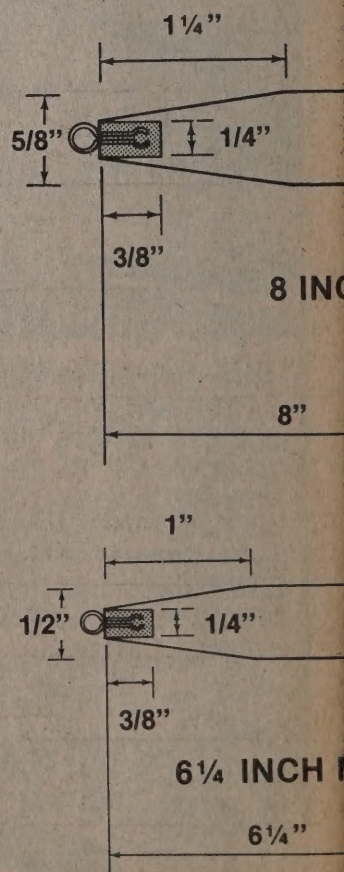
These plugs are commercially available from Boone Lures in Florida and Linesider Lures located in New Jersey. If you wish to buy the lures you may have to send to the manufacturer, because they are pretty tough to find around here. The Boone lures have to be modified by removing the hook hangers and either replacing them with screw eyes, sinker eyes or pins. A good bass or blue caught on the stock lure will rip out the hook hangers. The Linesider lure comes through with screw eyes, so it's a matter of preference if you want to change the screw eyes. Buying the plugs can be expensive, but as an alternative, they are very easy to make.

Let's start with some basics. In the accompanying diagrams, I show two models: the 6 1/4 inch and 8 inch versions. There is almost no limit to the size lures you can make by changing the diameter and length of the dowel, so these two are just the start. Once you construct them, you can experiment with other sizes.

The first items to get are some dowels. For the two models shown you will need 1/2 inch and 5/8 inch diameter hardwood dowels. Notice I stipulated hardwood. Try a few lumber yards and see if they have birch or maple dowels. Most of the dowels you get today are made from some porous wood which splits when it gets soaked, so try and get hardwood dowels. Once you have the dowels, they should be cut to size. Now you have to decide which method you want to use to hold the hooks. I use both the sinker eyes and pins in the same lure. I've also seen them made with all sinker eyes or all pins. The lure made with all pins had

swivels as front and rear eyes. The holes drilled in the 6 1/4 inch plug all one-quarter inch diameter, so I can drill all the eye, hook and wedge holes at once. On the eight inch model, the eye holes and hook holes are one-quarter inch and the wedge holes are 5/16 inches. After all the holes are drilled, you can shape the front and rear of the plug. You use coarse sandpaper to shape the ends. The commercial models have the front shaped a little different, when I compared the two, there wasn't any difference in the retrieval.

Now you can epoxy the sinker eyes in place. The sinker eyes can be bought at Merrick Tackle, 2 Merrick Rd., Bellmore, or ordered from Midland Tackle, 66 Route 10, Sloatsburg, N.Y. 10974. Use the smallest size. Also get a package of five minute epoxy which can also be bought at the previously mentioned



BLUEFISH PLUG

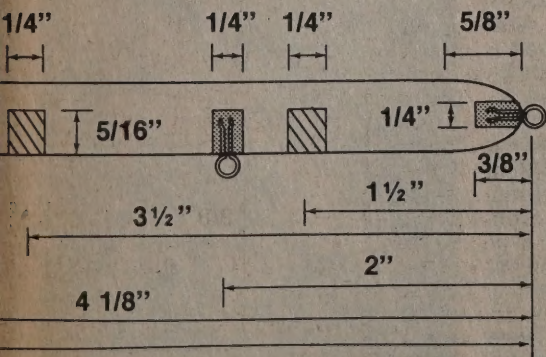
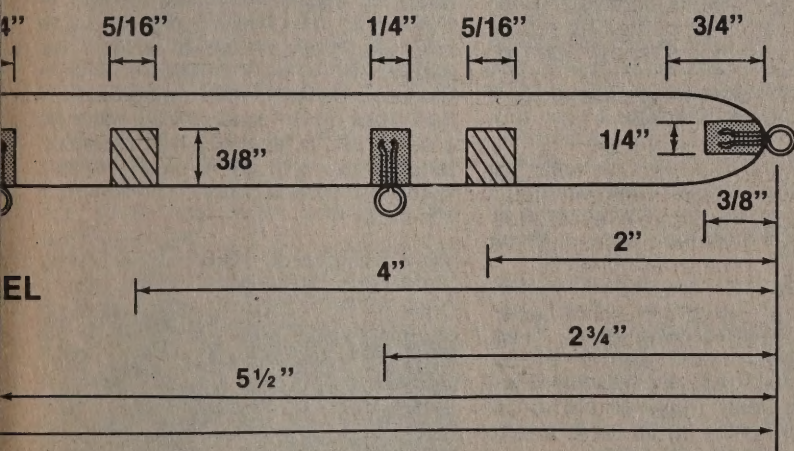
Chauer

es. The eyes can now be glued the front, rear and hook holes. If do not want to use the epoxy er eye method, pin the swivels in. dd the lead balancing weights you either melt lead in a tablespoon pour the lead directly into the s, or you can precast the weights. cast the weights using two pieces alf inch thick flat aluminum stock ed out with the correct measure- ts. After the lead weights are ed you can tap them in place. e sure you put a small amount of in the hole first. The glue will the weights in. Sand the lead ghts flush with the contour of the and sand the whole plug till it's oth. I now dunk the whole lure boiled linseed oil for 45 seconds let it dry for a couple of days. The ed oil waterproofs the plug and ents splitting. Once the plug is you can apply a finishing coat of

paint. You can use almost any kind of paint; just make sure you put on enough coats because the paint completes the waterproofing job. It also makes the plug look more professional and the lure will stand up to the sharp teeth of bluefish.

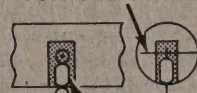
As far as hooks are concerned, I use Mustad Treble hooks on my lures, the series number is 35504. I use number ones on the 6 1/4 inch and number twos on the 8 inch model. If you use the sinker eyes for hook holders, you can also add small split rings between the hook and the sinker eye. The split rings sometimes prevent a hooked fish from getting leverage and freeing himself.

During the winter months when you are looking for something to keep you from going stir crazy, these lures are a perfect out. They are easy to make, not at all expensive, and best of all—they work!



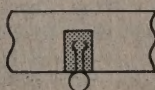
EXAMPLE 1

PIN DRIVEN THROUGH DOWEL TO HOLD SWIVEL



SMALL SWIVEL

EXAMPLE 2



SINKER EYE EPOXIED IN PLACE

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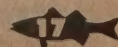
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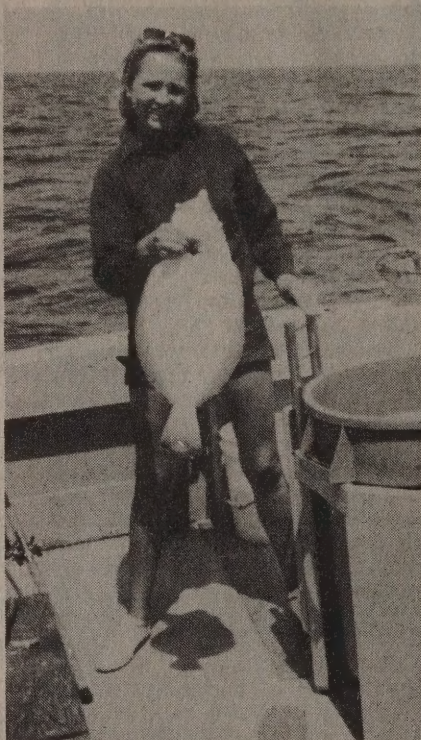
1982 AT MONTAUK

Part Two—by Capt. John DeMaio

In Part One, I covered all the bottom fish except the fluke. 1982 yielded a bumper crop of fluke, but due to the weakfish, my entry into the fluke scene did not occur until August 11th. The morning party caught 30 fluke plus 50 small blues and four weakfish. In the afternoon trip I chased the small blues while waiting for the slack water period to fish fluke. In two hours fishing, we kept 50 fluke and threw back at least 25 small ones. It was not unusual to have four fluke coming over the rail at a time. No one bothered with the net as all of these fish were small. A three pound fluke might have been the biggest.

Not until the end of August did I begin working on the fluke steadily. Still, even on half day trips I split the fishing. Small two pound blues were available in the same area where fluke could be had. It was a matter of tides. Bluefish on the running tides and fluke towards slack water. Given the opportunity of favorable tide conditions, the end of August saw scores such as 20 blues and 40 fluke for an afternoon.

Between August 23rd and September 4th, the "Vivienne" totalled 310 fluke for 13 charters. At a three man per party average trip that makes it 7.6 fluke per man. The same 13 trips also accounted for 349 bluefish, 6 bonito, 4 weakfish and 6 striped bass. The fluke kept growing, or so it



The 1982 season produced a bumper crop of fluke.

seemed. Hardly a fluke was returned in this period. Biggest fluke would be about six pounds, with the average at the start of September, around three pounds.

True-blue fluke fans kept it up until the middle of September. After Labor Day I never fished fluke again. Even though fish were still being taken, by my observations, the Labor Day period was best! Fluke as big as 15 pounds were showing up on dockside scales during that last week.

As in the past couple of years, blue fish were scarce on the inshore grounds until the fall. Their first appearance came in May. After some good codfishing we ran into a school of 8 lb. blues on the surface while en route home in 140 feet of water. We easily trolled up a dozen and continued on. This was not the start. Three days later on May 24, while trying for bass at the Point, we diamond jigged 30 blues in the five pound range. They kept on going because the next day not a blue was to be had.

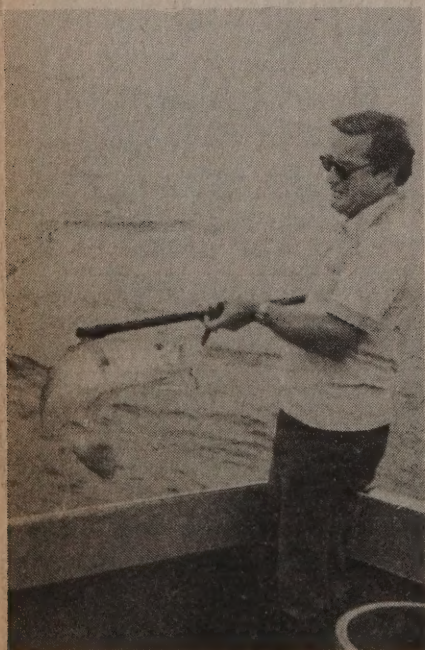
It wasn't until the middle of June when the charter boats began steadily fishing bluefish. Large choppers in the 10 to 12 lb. range could be trolled in the deep water south of Montauk Point in large numbers. The fish were

difficult to take on jigs because they stayed near the surface. Trolling was the answer. With only 100 feet of wire needed, it wasn't bad. Most of my people would tire from pulling the fish, such were their numbers. As an example of how good it was, charter boats and hook and line commercial men from New London were in attendance many a day.

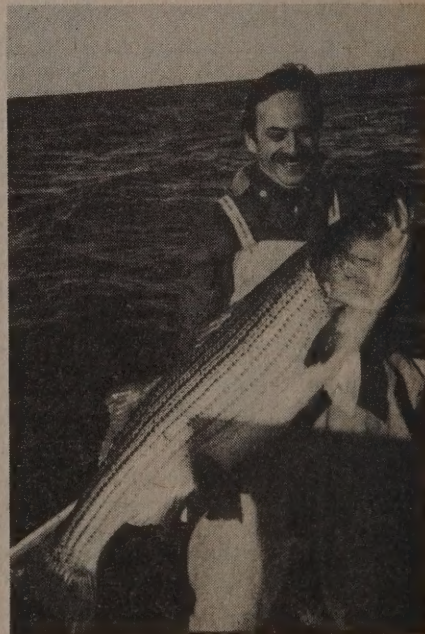
Once the weakfish showed up at the end of June, I chased the guys with the spots and shied from the bluefish. Most of the blues taken in July were those mixed in with the weakfish. About the middle of August, a large body of small blues settled into the Point area and stayed for sometime.

Cartwright bluefishing was in full swing by the end of August. The area lived up to its reputation by surrendering endless amounts of big bluefish. I am happy to say I only had to fish it eight times. With a little luck, it will be less next year.

Just as the bass fishing was beginning to perk up, large blues hit inshore en masse. From the middle of October on, bluefish, mostly all big to very big, could be found in the local haunts and very often mixed in with the bass. As late as November 15th, I had blues up to 15 pounds in water as shallow as 12 feet. My last recorded day for finding blues in large numbers was at Southwest Ledge on November 23rd.



The summer run of weakfish was red hot but the usual fall run never materialized.



Stripers were non-existent at Montauk in June but fall fishing benefitted by action lasting late into November.

The weakfish did not sneak in this year—they came on like gangbusters. Suspecting their arrival, I made a wide trip home from the Point one morning after some fair porgy fishing. Sure enough! A dozen or so diving birds gave away a huge school of feeding weaks outside Shagwong. As fast as we could get a lure to the bottom, my husband and wife team and myself walloped 48 weakfish averaging eight pounds. The largest was 11¾ pounds. It was Sunday, June 27th.

The next morning heavy fog concealed their whereabouts. In the afternoon the fog lifted and again three anglers racked up a box full of tiderunners. The action continued through July.

This July was better than July of 1981. I was expecting a solid run of weaks in October. Every year the pattern has been a good July with the fish tapering off in August and then returning again in late September. The late run in October also produces the biggest weaks. It never happened. I couldn't believe it! One weakfish every other day was about it. To say weakfish are unpredictable is an understatement.

While they were in attendance, the fish performed well. To illustrate how well, here are the figures for a party that chartered me for two full days and one half day all during the week of July 26th. The three trips showed a result of 149 weakfish and 69 blues.

My biggest hit came on the afternoon of July 16th. With only three casting rods at our disposal, four anglers caught 118 weakfish casting into the surf on Montauk's South Shore.

(Myself and many other charter boat captains do not wish to slaughter fish in such numbers, but until there are some bag limits imposed, our hands are tied.

About casting. The July moon found weaks along Montauk's South Shore also. A nighttime casting party had 38 and one bass on the night of July 8th. During the early August moon, a big body of weaks was to be found closer to home. Gin Beach played host to the fish for a week. A large number of surfcasters enjoyed this one.

I look forward to fishing for these freckle-faced fish next year. Not only in July, but through the entire season.

Bonito were scarce again this year. At least for the folks who enjoy casting for them. Albacore showed late and I did manage some casting. Light tackle and a 12 pound albie makes for great sport.

Striped bass were a win some-lose some fish all in the same year. There was no spring run. Not at all. Everyone blamed the cold water. At the time the bass should have been showing water temperatures were around 50 degrees. Bass are believed to be hard to come by until the water gets up to 54 degrees. Scientifically, it makes sense, but could there be other reasons for no bass this spring?

Last year in late May, I had 30 bass up to 40 pounds. This May I had one 10 pounder. The month of June, 1981 was memorable for 60 bass. At least three fish went over 40 pounds. Not a single bass was racked up this June. Remember the period of heavy rain in early June? It didn't help matters any. A total of nine trips in a row were cancelled on the June 5th weekend. Not only was the water cold, but it was very dirty due to heavy rain runoff.

An occasional bass found their way to the hook during the summer. That has become the accepted pattern now. Her and there a mistake. Even the nighttime fanatics were giving up.

Yippee! A one-man nighttime casting party on September's moon cast four bass along the beaches. Two fish went into the 30s. The following day a 37 pounder found the jig. Could this be the start of an early bass run? Not really; the next three bass were taken on the 22nd.

October 8th was the first real shot at fall fishing for me. After having already taken 105 pounds of porgies and 25 small blues, for an afternoon party, we tried bouncing diamond jigs in Pollock Rip before going in. Nine big bass jumped on the Ava jigs. All were of a good size with two of the fish in the 30s. Rough water cancelled out the next couple of days. When I finally was able to get back to the rip, I found five more for the bounced jig and dropped as many due to a mounting sea. What followed were three days of the biggest groundswells I have ever seen at Montauk. It left behind it a week of dirty brown water. Finally the week of October 18th saw a return to the bass action.

The following are the number of fall fish taken in 1982. Figures from 1981 are alongside for your comparison.

	OCTOBER 1982	1981
Small Bass	98	136
Large Bass	26	70

	NOVEMBER 1982	1981
Small Bass	286	92
Large Bass	16	18

TOTAL 426 316

It would appear that more fish were caught in the 1982 fall run. That is true, but a bit misleading. In 1981 the last bass taken was on November 12th. This past year it ended for me on November 22nd. A full ten more days of calm seas to catch more fish. Those 10 days produced another 92 bass. Take away 92 from the total count and you end up with only 16 more bass than last year. Another look shows '81 had double the amount of big fish.

The winner of my free trip contest for the biggest bass of the season goes to Jeff Sherer of Rockville Center. Jeff caught a 43 pound bass trolling with a Sekora tube umbrella rig. Runner-up was Bobby De Marca with a 40 pounder that took a four ounce Ava jig.

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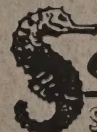
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GETTING READY FOR SPRING

by Matt Ahern

The time between now and that first flounder trip is dwindling fast. Here are some suggestions to help you make the most of it.

Okay, so maybe that title seems a little far-fetched just now, and maybe at this minute the snow is flying and tomorrow's northwest wind will be colder than you-know-what—but consider the fact that in eight short weeks you'll be able to go flounder fishing! Seems hard to believe, but true nevertheless.

Such being the case, the immediate question for us fellows becomes: how are we going to spend those next eight weeks while awaiting the first faint stirrings of spring flounder?

Last month I listed ten resolutions for interested fishermen to help while away winter's doldrums, but now we come to the nitty-gritty of actual fishing. But let us first stir ourselves to bigger and better things...by answering a simple question: How are you going to spend those eight weeks?

Are you going to waste them by perhaps becoming a charter member of that great captive audience who become ecstatic over all that inane TV programming? Perish the thought! In fact, as the dedicated fisherman I'm

sure you are, I'll give you but two weeks to get that foolishness out of your system before you begin Champ-ing at the bit. Maybe it won't even take that long, especially when one considers what goes under the guise of TV "entertainment."

So—then what are you going to do? Read? That's one good way to improve yourself, especially if you devote your free time to re-reading all those interesting fishing articles you've been putting aside for just such an occasion. Can't go wrong here; but alas—just how much reading can one do? If anything, reliving past experiences at this time is akin to pouring salt into an open wound.

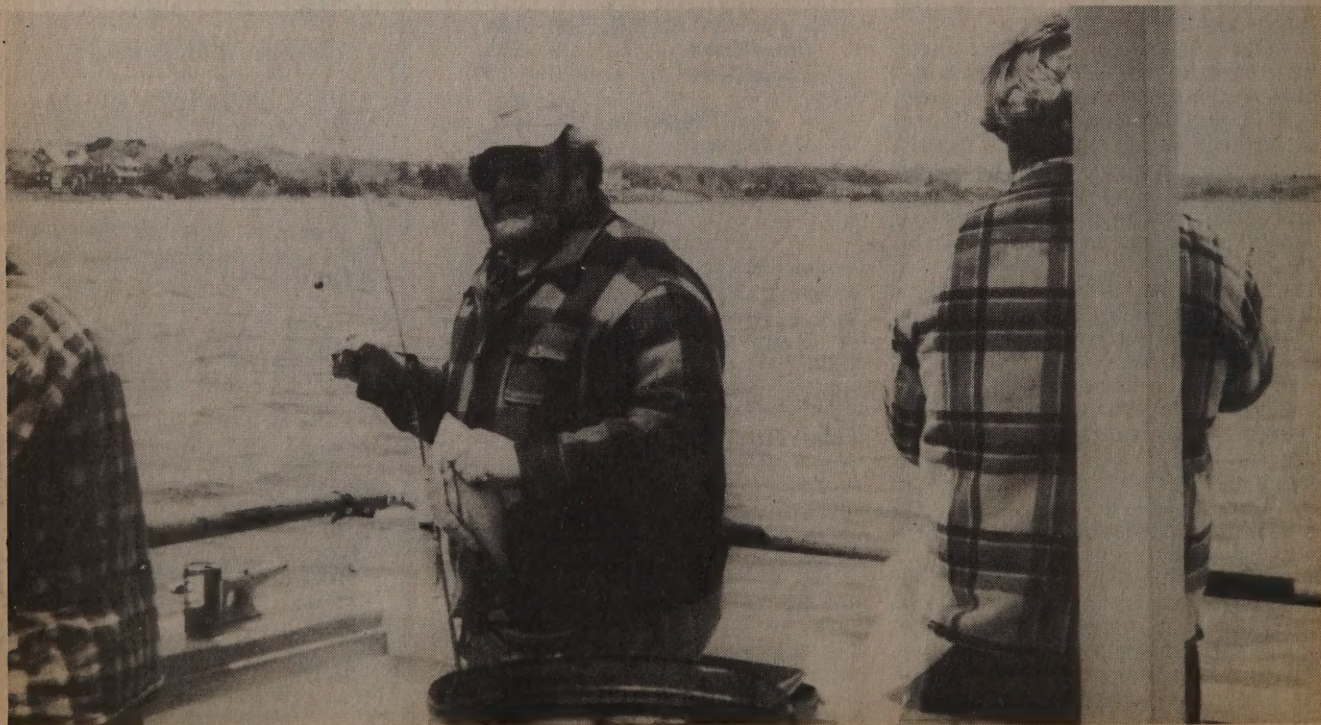
As a fisherman, you're a man of action. So let's do something active—like cleaning out your messy tackle box. And don't think it won't take some cleaning out! Have you looked it over lately? I mean, really looked it over?

I know exactly what it looks like, because at this instant I've got mine opened before me. And when I look at

its contents, I come to one conclusion: we are all brothers under the skin. There may be fat fishermen, skinny fishermen, old fishermen, and young fishermen, and perhaps never the twain shall meet, but one thing we all have in common is a gosh-awful mess in our tackle boxes.

Let me pause here a minute and do a little pawing through and see what goodies I come up with.

Here's some rust-spotted, kinked, coiled-beyond-hope fluke leaders, plus several severely-rusted flounder hooks which threaten to crumble at a touch. And will wonders never cease! Here's that spool of 30 pound mono I accused my long-time buddy Artie Leidecker of not returning. Um-m-m. Some day (maybe) I'll have to apologize for those scurvy things I said. And here, in this corner, what's this tucked under those fish scales? Split-shot left over from last summer's snapper fishing. Or was it the summer before? And for goodness sake, here's that over-sized three-way swivel I could have used last August while drifting for fluke through that



It won't be long before this becomes a familiar sight on local waters.

mile-a-minute current at Shinnecock Inlet. Could have doubled my catch. Maybe.

Let's see now. What else is in this jumbled pile of what-is-it? Ah! Here's that sprung "Quick-Rig" I decked that nice cod with two winters ago. (Luck was with me that day.) And wonder of wonders, how did those mackerel scales get inside and under the loose-hook trays? And here are those barrel swivels and sinker snaps I bought last year and never used. Maybe if I squirt a little WD-40, that green gook will loosen its grip and I'll be able to use them this year. And here are several blackened four-inch, needle-thin, hard coils of something. Of course—mummified night crawlers from last spring's flounder fishing. How'd they get in there? Now I know where that god-awful stench came from. And will you look at all these rusted, bent, and broken hooks!

Enough already! You get the idea. Just as soon as I finish this article, I'm going to dump all that stuff on the kitchen table and give much of it the deep-six. Those rust-flecked and kinked fluke leaders will have to go; so, too, will those rusted and broken hoos. But not that sprung "Quick-Rig." I'm too sentimental for that. That "Quick-Rig" goes in the box with the outsized cod skulls and all those baby lobsters, plus other assorted foreign objects found in cod stomachs over the years. Which only goes to prove what I've always maintained: that all dedicated winter codfishermen are a little touched in the upper story.

And then I'm going to draw up a list of replacements I need. There will have to be some new fluke leaders made up, a fresh supply of flounder hooks snelled to 20 lb. leader material for the coming season; and maybe lay in a few swivels and such in case those gooked-up ones prove beyond salvage. Already I've got enough work lined up to pass away a few more of those long, boring winter evenings.

When the list is completed and I'm satisfied I've overlooked nothing, then I'm going to get some hot soapy water and get rid of all that crud that has accumulated on the inside and outside of that tackle box. It looks to me as if some of that gook is going to need a good soaking first. But what the heck—I've got plenty of time.

When these minor clean-up chores are out of the way, I'm going to give my reels more than a cursory glance. I'll use a little elbow grease and rid them of those mackerel and snapper scales. Then I'll go over the screws and make certain the drag settings are free.

If I'm lucky maybe the reels will only need a slight tightening here and there. If there's evidence of binding or foreign sounds, I might be able to take care of it myself—and I might not. If not, tomorrow a visit to the repair shop is in order. By doing this now, I don't run the risk of not getting back my ailing reel, or reels, in time for early spring fishing.

And while we're on this subject of reels, how is the mono on your reel? If it is frayed, don't forget to cut back as much as necessary to the good stuff. If the line has lost its color or limpness, my advice is to replace it. Sunlight is mono's enemy and you may have given it all it can safely take before it lets go under the stress of an outsized fish. (Be careful where you store mono—don't expose it to sunlight by placing it on the rear window shelf of your car.) Perhaps all you'll have to do is reverse it on the reel. But if you have any doubts (even one), get rid of it. Good mono is cheap enough.

That should be enough checking for now, but just as soon as possible, I'll go over my rods. No matter how careful the fisherman, windings do become frayed and cut; perhaps the reel seat, or ferrule, or even the tiptop has loosened. Now's the time to think about rewinding those wrappings, or to have it done. It is a simple matter to reseal those metal parts with ferrule cement. Perhaps only the heat of a match will do the trick. (The smart fisherman always carries a tube of ferrule cement in his tackle box.)

While you're at it, you might give the guides and tiptop a good checking over. If they are grooved, it is to your advantage to install new ones now. Grooving comes from the hard mono line passing over the softer metal of the guide or tiptop. And mono is hard stuff, although to look at it you wouldn't think so. I think it is best to replace the tiptop with one made of carboloy. These will cost a few pennies more, but your line-grooving troubles are over. Just be careful not to drop the rod on a hard surface—I'm told carboloy shatters if it lands just right.

And last, but not least: in what shape is your foul-weather gear? If yours is like mine, it will be smeared with dried skimmer and bunker chum. Cool, soapy water will remove this goop easily enough. Any rips or tears? I don't know what to tell you here. Perhaps you can make repairs, but my advice is to think about purchasing a new outfit soon. If you can afford it (and they do come high), get yourself the best. It will more than pay for itself by lasting longer and will indeed keep you warmer by shielding from strong, cold winds and heavy rain or snow. Cheap imports won't do this on those tough days.

Anyway, all this will keep you busy for a few evenings and rescue you from those many incredulous, asinine TV shows that various assorted idiots tell you you can't afford to miss. You can miss them, all right! Better you should entertain yourself constructively, and come springtime, you'll be all set and happy that you took the time to make things right.

Oh, yes—your tackle box. Put all your stuff back neatly, everything in its proper place, and I'll guarantee you that once you begin fishing again, it will stay that way—for at least five minutes!

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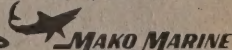
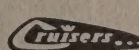
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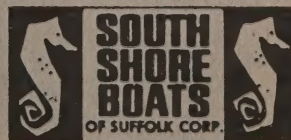
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SOUTHERN TROUT

by Pete Barrett

**Vacationing readers will find good action with,
speckled trout, first cousin of the weakfish.**

Florida plays the siren's song for many snowbound fishermen, and many of us will succumb to thoughts of sun, warmth and winter fishing as we head south for a brief break from the chill of winter.

If you are one of those who can't wait for spring and pack up in January, February, March or April you may find some great fishing for the first cousin of our northern weakfish: the speckled trout. Although usually a bit smaller than our weakies, specs are still lots of fun on light tackle and they can be found in many parts of Florida. We've caught them in the Keys, along Sanibel and Fort Meyers and up near Cape Canaveral by Merritt Island.

The nice thing about trout is you can wade for them, fish from a small boat or fish from bridges and bulkheads. They are readily available in many areas. The only limiting factor is the weather. A cold snap can drop

the fishing dead in its tracks.

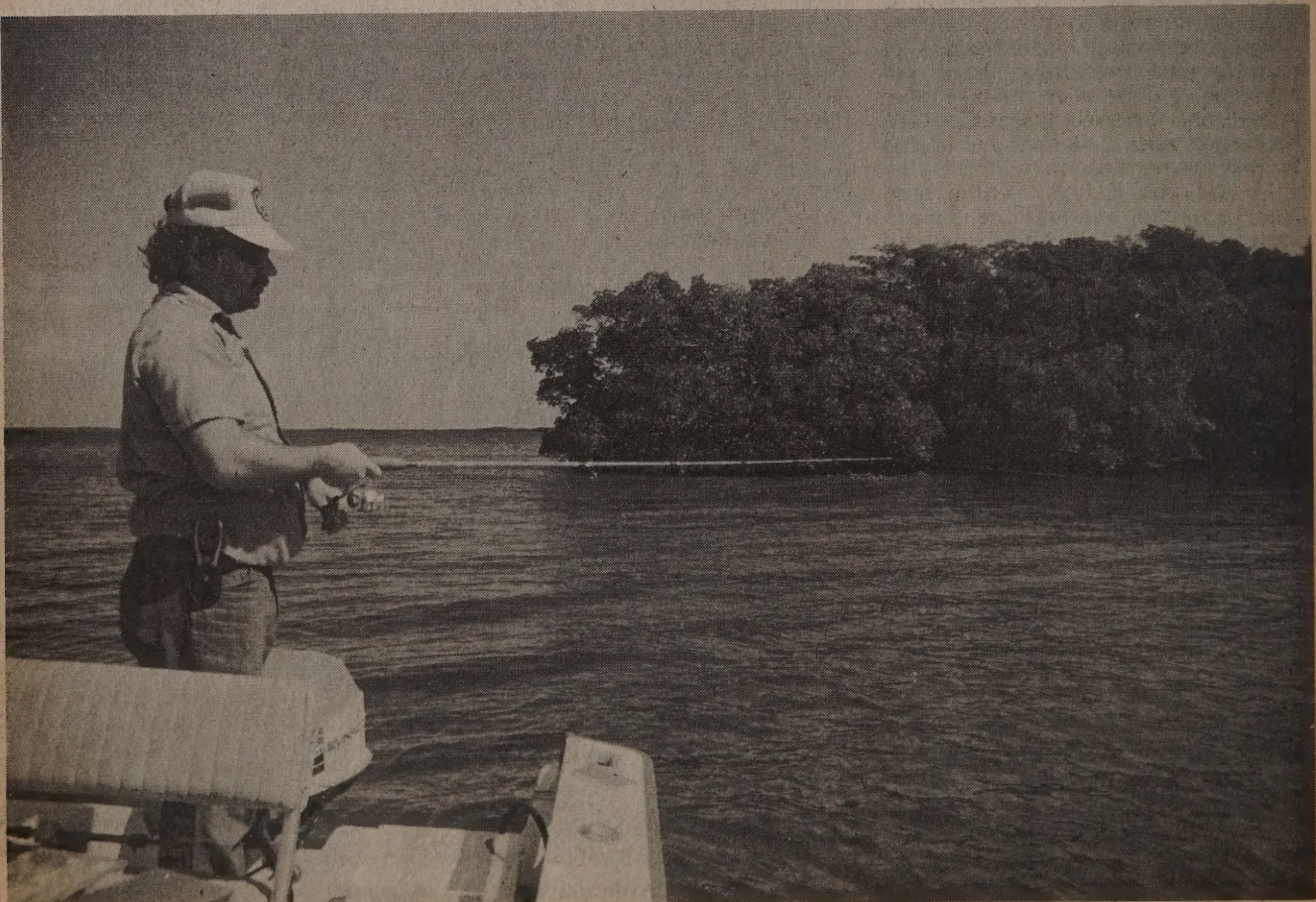
Most of the fish will be averaging two to four pounds with a few larger fish of perhaps five to seven pounds showing up occasionally. No matter the size, trout are one of the finest eating game fish found in the bays and they are reasonably easy to catch in good numbers.

Most fishermen will anchor at the edge of a dropoff along a known flats area that produces good catches of trout. Then it is simply a matter of waiting for the trout to come to them. Shrimp dropped down below a popping float is the usual bait fishing method used by nearly everyone. The distance of the shrimp to the float will vary with the depth of the water, but you do want the shrimp to be just off the bottom, so the deeper the water the longer the distance between the float and the bait. The float is "popped" or jerked every half minute or so to create a splashing sound to

get the trout's attention.

This is a time-tested method that certainly catches fish, but you don't cover much water and if the trout aren't feeding in the area where you are anchored, the action will be sloooow. Ground-up chum will definitely help to bring schools of trout your way. Bait shops sell it in pre-packaged frozen blocks or you can make your own by crushing up the shrimp you have leftover after each trip and adding it to a Tupperware container kept in the freezer. You can also dice up fresh shrimp and toss them sparingly out into the tide or current.

I prefer drifting for trout better than anchoring up. You can cover much more water and have a better chance of finding fish. Once you get a hook-up, drop the anchor and stay with the school until the action slows as the trout move on or get spooked by the disturbance of watching their brothers and sisters battle strange



Paul Gamba casts to a pothole near some mangroves for a chance at some Florida speckled trout.

looking lures and shrimp that fight back!

While drifting you can fish shrimp baits on the back sides of the drift while casting plastic tailed lures like the Touts, Salty Dogs and Mr. Twisters into the drift. The baits may require extra distance on the drop-back from the float to compensate for the speed of the drift which may tend to lift the baits off the bottom.

I find drifting much more enjoyable. It's like hunting and you have more anticipation of the coming strike each time you cast the lure. Colors of lures can be important. While fishing a few years back near Merritt Island, the only color the specs would take was a lime green, short plastic tail on a yellow-headed bucktail. Anything else you tossed at them, other than natural shrimp, would be totally ignored like a wall flower at the senior prom. Just a few weeks ago trout behind Sanibel Island in San Carlos Bay were taking smoke grey Touts, yet on the change of a southwest wind, they favored only a white tail with a red head.

I usually keep an assortment of bucktails and bare Trout Tout heads in a small tackle box along with an assortment of plastic worms and tails in various colors. Then we can experiment with a wide selection of colors and tail lengths until we hit on the right combination.

As a general rule the best colors are the white, grey, pink and yellow tails. There are days, however, when a purple, green, black or red tail will be the only thing the trout will jump on.

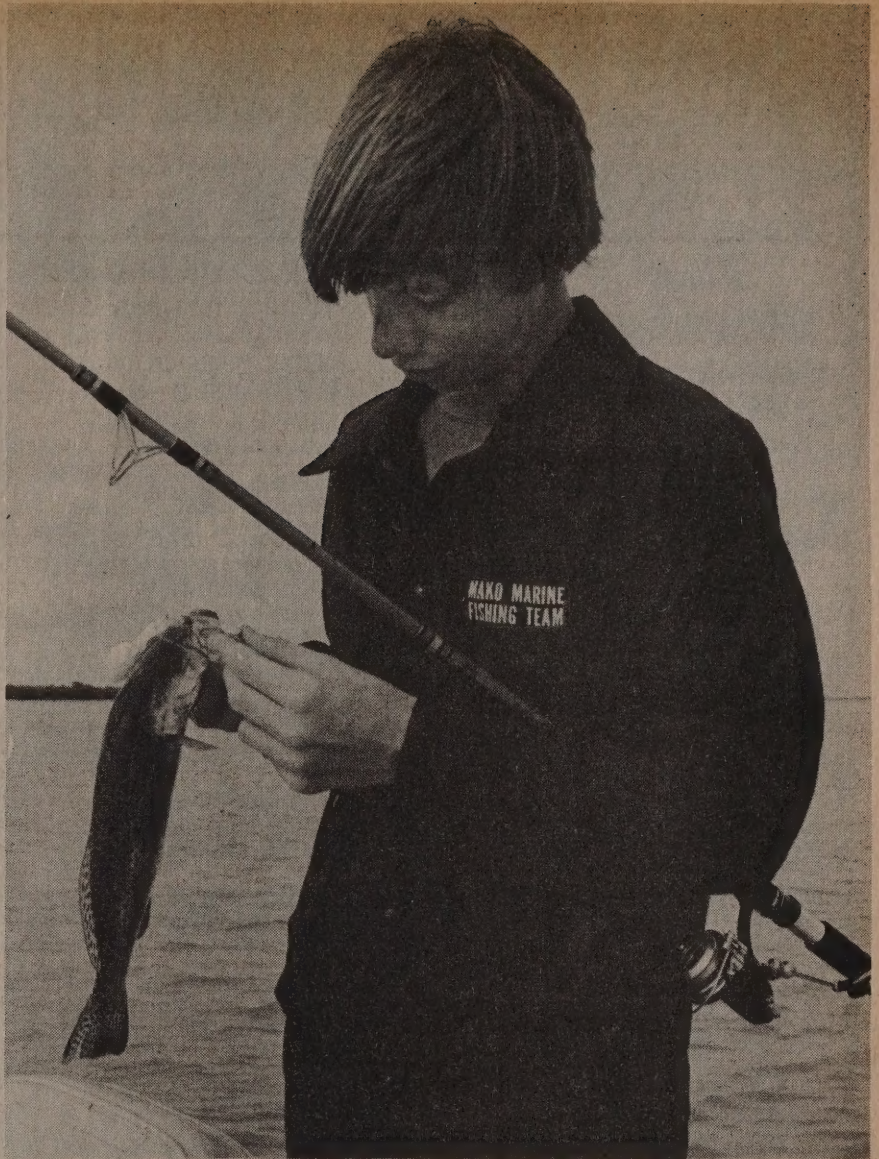
Trout will also hit a variety of spoons like the Johnson Silver Minnow, the smallest Acetta Per Spoons and the small Hopkins. Many fishermen add a plastic tail to the spoons for more action.

Mirro-Lures, Rebels, RedFins and shallow running swimming plugs can catch well on certain days and there are also times when popping plugs will do well, too. Lures should be small AND THE RETRIEVE SHOULD BE fairly slow and steady.

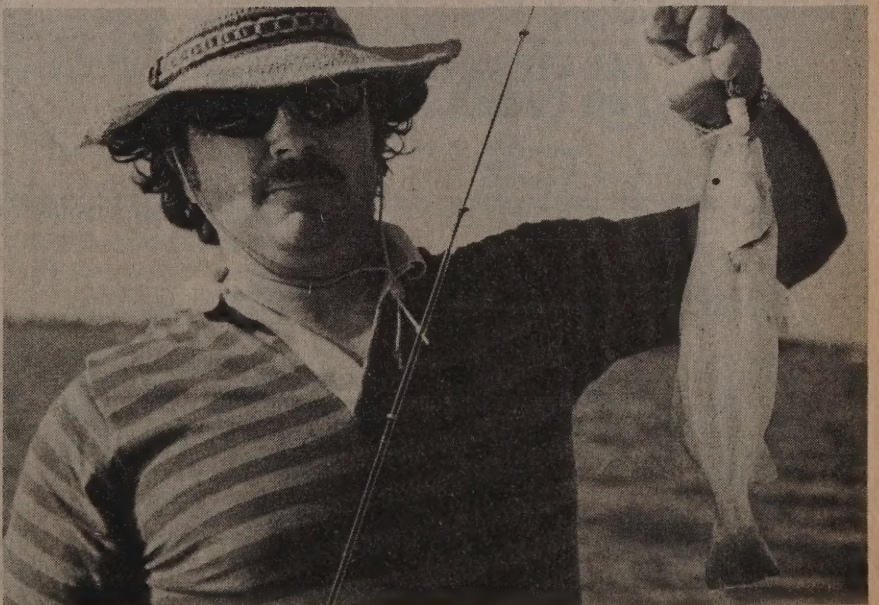
Since most of the fish are on the smaller side tackle can be light. Four to six pound test line is surely adequate and light action rods with a soft tip are ideal. Some trout fishermen are looking to the new smaller bait casting and plugging reels like the Shimano Bantam 100 matched to a very light five foot rod and are having a ball. They feel, and I agree, that the plugging tackle affords more lure control and better action when working the bucktails or Touts with an enticing twitching action.

Trout can be easy marks for fly rodders working the shallow waters with patterns like the Lefty's Deceiver and sparsely tied Brooks Blondes. A touch of mylar in the pattern will add to the overall appeal and flash of the fly. I'd prefer to use a 7½ or 8 foot light fly rod usually classed as a freshwater trout rod because these lighter rods are perfect for battling it

(Continued on next page.)



Light spinning gear is perfect for these trout that usually weigh in at two to four pounds.



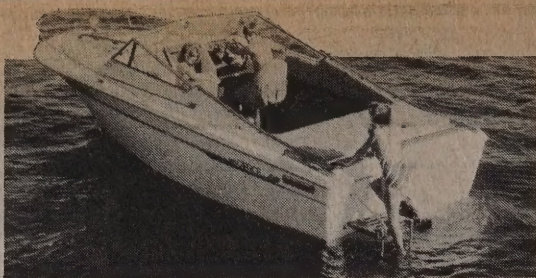
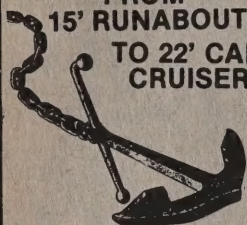
Silver trout is another close cousin of the northern weakfish. Looks just like a spec, but doesn't have any spots. Silver trout are usually found in similar waters as the specs.

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out with the small but scrappy sea trout, yet it seems every time the fly rod is readied, the wind begins to blow.

To beat the wind a nine foot rod able to handle a nine weight line will be a better all around fly rodding choice. The heavier line will handle better against a breeze.

I've found the best fishing with a sink-tip, weight forward line. Since the fish are hanging in the grass just off the bottom, the sinking tip gets down just deep enough to meet the fish eyeball to eyeball so they'll be able to see the fly at the right depth.

Like the bucktails, colors of flies are best in the whites, pinks, and yellows, but again it can pay to have a selection of other colors in your streamer book or fly box. Size of the pattern is important, too. Flies tied on size 1 to 2/0 hooks and about two to four inches in length seem to get the most strikes.

One of the most enjoyable ways to catch flats trout is by wading. Merritt Island gave me some of the best trout action I'll probably ever see while wading the flats along the causeway out to the Space Center. It took awhile, but once I found the slightly deeper holes the fishing was just short of fantastic. We were fishing water of only two and three feet deep, but the trout were packed into small depressions on the flat of about 3½ to 4 feet deep. Once the hole was located, every fifth or sixth cast resulted in a hook-up. There were plenty of less than 12 inch throwbacks, but we still managed to score on over a hundred legal sized fish in four afternoons of fishing just before dusk.

Wading requires no special equipment, but I like a slightly longer rod to get maximum distance on the casts. You are already at least knee deep in water so the extra length makes it easier to get off a long, yet accurate cast and play the fish with relative ease.

Fly rodding trout is great fun on the flats while wading. Again near Merritt Island, but further around in the back waters at the mouth of a series of canals, the outgoing tide washed bait and trout out to us. Small white and silver streamers scored on the unsuspecting fish.

Waders often have the best fishing by finding either a slightly deeper hole or by fishing the dropoff to deeper water along a channel. You want to wade within yards of the dropoff and work your plug or bucktails up against the dropoff.

A stringer tied to your belt will hold the fish you catch, but I remember watching a distant fisherman nearby run across the top of the water to get away from a four foot shark that was trying to eat a free meal off that angler's stringer. It rarely happens, but it can happen.

Whatever way you decide to fish, when the trout get up on the flats, one thing can be counted on, and that is good fishing with lots of action.

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East End Report

by Stu Miller

MONTAUK

According to Capt. Richie Rade of the **Marlin Fleet** Saturday and Sunday saw good codfishing to the tune of 10 to 13 cod a man, fish running 7 to 25 lbs. on bait. A few blackfish and small pollock were also brought up. The action was at the Cartwright rocks.

South Shore Report

by Fred Golofaro

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

Aboard the charter boat **Yankee III** Captain Bob Patafio gave exuberant reports concerning the open bottom codfishing which he described at its best for the whole season so far. Saturday's charter for 10 people scored with 56 cod consisting of a lot of 3 and 4 lb. fish. Pool hit 14 lbs. and high hook was 14 bacala. Sunday's



Joe, Jack, Bobby and Peter put away a mixed bag of bass, cod, blues and blacks during a Montauk trip aboard Capt. Jay Rigano's "Lori-Jay."

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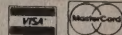
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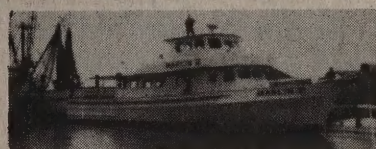
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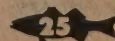
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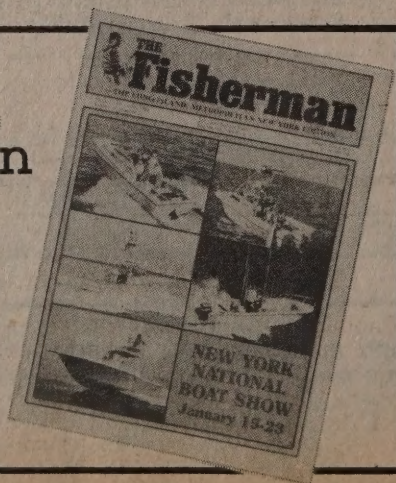
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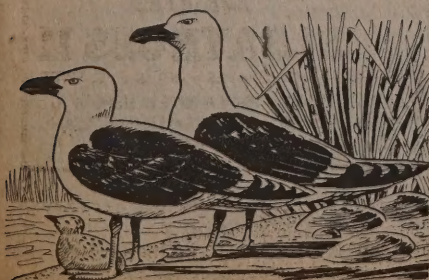
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trip for nine people again fished in 100 feet of water due south of Fire Island Inlet and racked up 110 cod. Two of the anglers had 20 fish apiece. A 41 1/2 lber. took the pool a Mr. Color of the Bronx. Again, this was all open bottom. Bob said that other good scores were made by private boats fishing SW of where he was anchored up. Sunday's catch consisted of a lot of 5 to 10 lb. fish.



Western South Shore Report

by Stu Miller

WEST END BAYS & INLETS

Captain Billy Lindroth who skippered the **Capt. Al** this week had some super reports for the week's codfishing. On Wednesday Joe Golden of Massapequa hoisted 15 cod to 25 lbs. while Norman Barry of Manorville also had 15 cod to 25 lbs. Big fish

of the day was a 65 1/2 lb. cow for Tony Magali. Tommy DiMatteo was happy with his 40 lber. Both Tony and Tommy are from Brooklyn and the duo shared 33 cod between them. On the same day, Bob Matus Sr. and Jr. bagged up with 30 cod with Bob Jr. getting the biggest, a 30 lber. Another happy angler George Machin of Long Beach, a member of South Shore Anglers had two brutes—a 40 and 59 lb. cod. A total of 14 cod was the score for Bob Bleakivey. On Saturday's trip, John Oleszek of New City, New York set the hook on a 45 lber. while Gene C. Remy of Rockville Centre decked a 35 lber. Frank Ellish of Roslyn Park, NJ decked a 40 lber. while George Muff of Brooklyn filled up his sacks with 17 cod up to 20 lbs. Nine cod was the reward for Hank Hill of Clark, NJ. This was a banner day and there were a lot of catches of 4-6 a man besides. The trip on Monday was for 8 people and the body count

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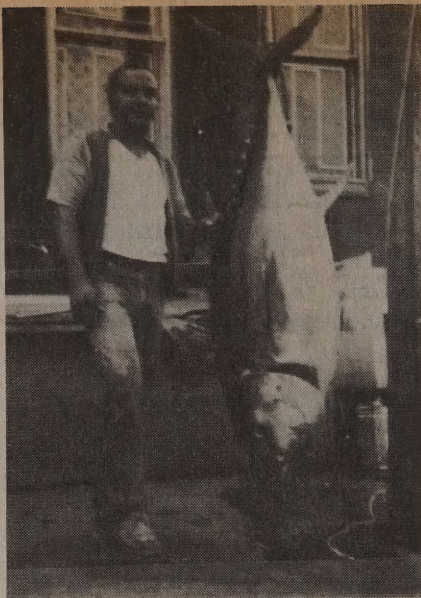


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trolled at the Hudson Canyon
aboard the private boat Marty's
Twins. Angler Charles Laman-
no weighed the fish at Skippy's
Bait & Tackle in East Rockaway.

was 130 cod. Sunday was a pickier day
due to conditions, but even so a 40
lber. was hoisted. The fish were
there, but it was just the wrong tidal
conditions. These fish were caught
while anchored and chumming.

Captain Richie Kessinger of the
Star Stream II is extremely happy
with the consistency of the codfishing
which has to be attributable to the
success of the 200 mile limit. On
Sunday's trip 36 fares took over 100
cod with some anglers bagging up
with 8-12 fish each. A 20 lber. took the
pool Sunday. On Saturday's trip
Randy Mieson of Levittown rang the
bell with a 50 lb. cod and Bob Dole of
East Meadow decked a 35 lber. Wed-
nesday's trip saw a 42 lber. put a big
bend in the rod of Joey Catalano of
Elmont. Joey had 7 other cod as well
by the end of the day. The skipper
was working the edges of wrecks,
rocks and mussel beds. Fishing in a
tough sea Friday eight fares still
managed 30 cod.

Wednesday through Sunday saw
very good codfishing advised skipper
Jim Lanzaetta of the **Super Spray II**.
Thursday saw Tony Cutinelle, East
Williston with 15 cod, five of which
went over 30 lbs. Tony also had a 52
lb. pool fish. Rich Dunbar of Center-
each tallied up 8 cod to 40 lbs. Even
though Friday was a rough day as far
as conditions went, fishing was still
acceptable and a 42 lber. took the
pool. Saturday the boat made approx-
imately 150 cod with Bob Rojas
taking high hook honors with 10 fish,
followed by Ed Kolakowski with 9
cod. Tony Outeirao bagged up 7 fish
for the day. On Sunday over 200 cod
were taken with a 50 lber. taking the
pool for George York of Atlantic
Beach. George also had 5 other cod.
The boat has been fishing pieces of
wrecks and also open bottom.

IMPROVING A GOOD THING

(Continued from page 11.)

their weight without diminishing their
life-like action. This can be accom-
plished by injecting varying amounts
of water into the inner chambers.

The accepted procedure is to heat a
small finishing nail with a Bernzo-
matic torch and melt a hole through
the wall of the plug. After the water is
injected, this same nail is reheated
and used to melt the plastic sur-
rounding the opening to reseal the
hole. These openings are usually
made, in RedFins, along the center
line at the top of the head approxi-
mately three-eighths of an inch to the
rear of the eye marks. The Hellcats
are pierced along the center line of
the underside immediately in front of
the rear belly hook. Fresh water is
usually inserted with a calibrated
syringe with the cubic centimeter
quantities varying according to the
type of plug but most anglers loading
plugs keep it below the amount that
will cause it to sink. Some experi-
menting will be necessary but a few
starting amounts are: 2 cc's for the
Hellcats, 4 cc's for five inch RedFins
and 9 cc's in a 7 inch plug and swear
by its effectiveness and I will not
question their claims. The only reason
for mentioning it is to point out that
there are differing opinions as to the
ideal amounts, leaving it for each
individual to discover what works best
for him.

To my knowledge, this method is
not applicable for the Rebel line but
some hardworking surfmen on Nan-
tucket weight their 7 inch Rebels in
another way. They make 3 to 3½
wraps of 1/8 inch diameter solid wire
solder around the rear section of the
plug, starting at a point a half inch
in front of the eye of the tail hook and
work towards the nose of the plug.
These wraps are made as tight as
possible and epoxied in place with a
dark colored epoxy. I can attest to the
fact that a Rebel so altered will cast
like a bullet and catch striped bass as
well.

Even if none of these thoughts,
regarding the altering of perfectly
good plugs, seems worth the effort,
one minor adjustment should be made
of each and every lure that is
purchased. This is to take a file or
sharpening stone and hone the point
of each hook before a lure is added to
the plug bag. What may seem like a
perfectly good hook still requires a
few touches with a file to ensure rapid
penetration at the instant of strike.

All quality tackle will undoubtedly
take fish at one time or another, but
there will be occasions when no
standard procedure or product seems
to generate a strike. To all outward
appearances the plug being used by
the sharpies down the beach might
seem the same as all the others, but
then again, it might be modified to
produce just the action the fish desire.

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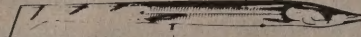
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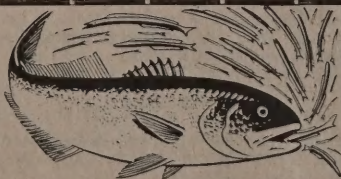
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BOATS & MOTORS

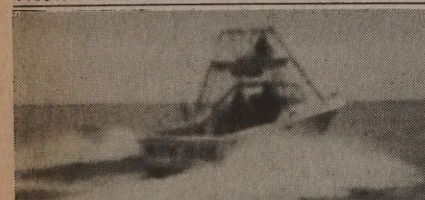
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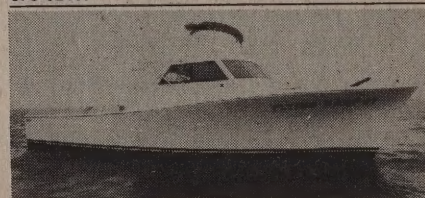
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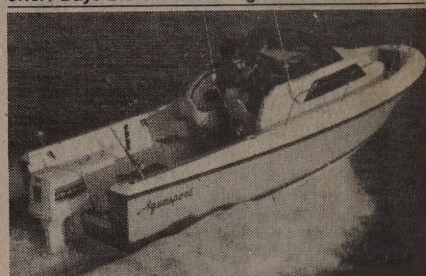
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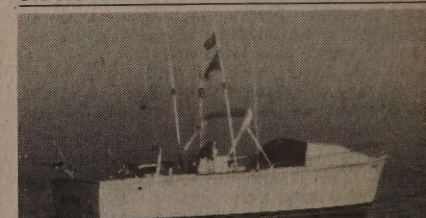
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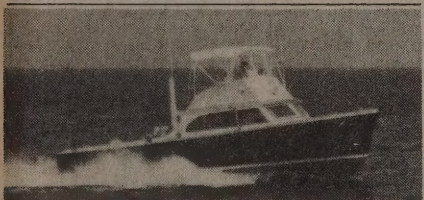
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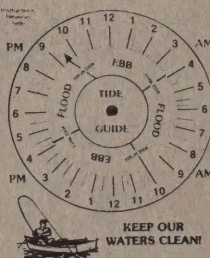
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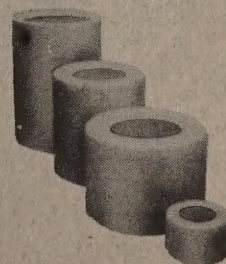
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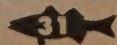
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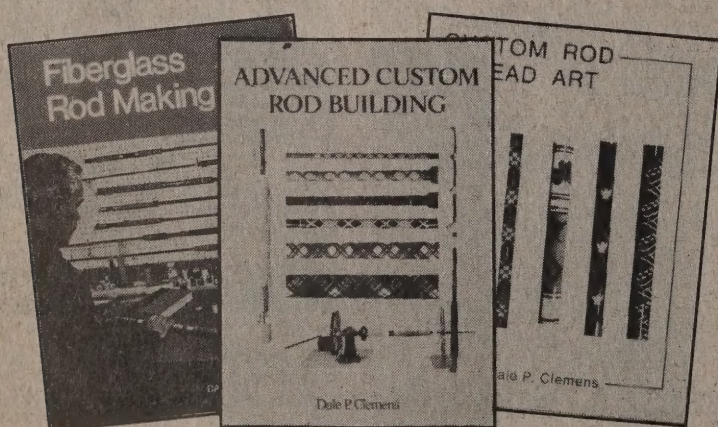




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